Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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MORE MISERY ON THE ROADS

Report by David Callaghan

A STREET in Wordsley will close to traffic for up to 18 months for repair work to a wall — sparking worries it will cause major traffic congestion on nearby roads.

Mill Street has already been closed for several weeks, with signs and fencing surrounding a damaged wall at a derelict factory.

But now Dudley Council has revealed the road will be closed for a period of 18 months, or until the repair work is completed,whichever date is sooner.

They say alternative access will be provided via nearby Plant Street, which is notorious locally for its many potholes.

Plant Street and nearby Bridge Street and John Street have already seen a significant increase in daily traffic during the Mill Street work.

Alan Bradley, licensee of the Bird In Hand pub on John Street, said: "With the road already being closed for some time, we've definitely seen traffic congestion increasing, with cars getting blocked in from either way.

"Nearby streets are narrow enough as it is, so it's been a problem with delivery lorries driving down Bridge Street to drop off goods, but not able to carry on through to the Mill Street exit.

"Instead they have to drive up to the top and awkwardly attempt to manoeuvre and reverse back down, which is increasingly difficult."

Safer

Derrick Hemingsley, Councillor for Wordsley, said he was in support of the roadworks if it meant making the road safer but called for better planned diversions.

Councillor Hemingsley said: "I don't agree with making Plant Street an alternative route. You only have to drive down it to see the number of huge potholes all over the street, so this really is an issue in itself.

"The question needs to be posed to the council as to why this isn't being resurfaced before any other work takes place."

However, there were opposing views, with one resident — who did not want to be named — claiming it will stop locals driving the wrong way on Mill Street as a short cut onto Brierley Hill Road.

He said: "Of course nobody wants to hear nearby roads will be closing for such a long period of time, but I think it will be a lesson to people who drive through the road the wrong way each day, which is a danger in itself.

"It has two big no entry signs but people ignore them. At peak times, particularly rush hour, they dart down the street to get onto the Brierley Hill Road and cut out traffic."

POPULAR POPPY ART TO MARK REMEMBRANCE

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho surrounded by thousands of poppies at Dudley Council House, which were made by local people

MORE than 2,000 hand-crafted poppies are covering the inside of Dudley's Council House in the run up to Remembrance Day on Sunday.

The poignant display, entitled Poppies Everywhere, has been created to mark Armistice Day on November 11.

Inspiration for the project came from the huge field of ceramic poppies that were on show at the Tower of London last year.

A total of 888,246 poppies were included in that display, representing lives lost in the First World War.

Poppies on display at the Priory Road council base were made using a variety of materials including glass, pottery, leather, paper and wool by adult learners and community groups across the borough.

Mayor

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, said it was a remarkable display.

He added: "Since the First World War the poppy has come to symbolise those that have been killed in war and have also been used to commemorate that sacrifice.

"More than 50 groups, from across the whole spectrum, such as guide groups, people with learning difficulties, Age UK, just to name a few, have got involved, which I think is remarkable. It has now become a centre piece, which I'm very happy about."

The poppies will be displayed up until a few days after Armistice Day, when some will go to a display at RAF Cosford and some will be sold in aid of the Royal British Legion.

Towns and villages across Dudley borough will be marking Remembrance Day with parades and war memorial services on Sunday.

FA CUP

Injury blow days before big match

STOURBRIDGE Football Club head to the south coast on Saturday to face Dover Athletic in the first round proper of the FA Cup.

The stakes are high with the Glassboys hoping that victory over the Kent side will land them a big money glamour tie.

In the week leading up to the clash, the War Memorial club have had mixed fortunes, progressing in the FA Trophy with a 2-1 derby victory over Halesowen Town but beaten 5-0 by a young Wolves side in the Birmingham Senior Cup. That match also worried fans as midfielder Drew Canavan was stretchered off.

TALENT

Collabro to switch on Merry Hill lights

BOY band Collabro, who won Britain's Got Talent in 2014 with their versions of show songs, will be visiting intu Merry Hill for the switching on of the shopping centre's Christmas lights.

A weekend of entertainment is being organised on November 14 and 15.

The party kicks off at 11am on the Saturday with the switch-on at the main stage at 4 pm. Collabro and Old Men Grooving, who also took part in the TV talent show, will be performing. Santa's parade will take place from 3.30pm.

ATTACK

Stabbed teenager needed 20 stitches

A TEENAGER was stabbed in the street in Brierley Hill after he and his friends were set upon by another group of men.

West Midlands Police said the 19-year-old needed 20 stitches after the incident in Brettell Lane on Saturday at around 9pm.

Force spokesman Deb Edmonds said: "A man suffered a slash injury to his arm after being attacked by a man with a utility or craft knife."

The teenager was with a group of friends when they became involved in a dispute with another group of teenagers. Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

INSIDE

PETITION BID TO SAVE MUSEUM

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Head's delight over OBE honour

The presentation is made

A HEADTEACHER has spoken of his pride after receiving his OBE for services to education at Buckingham Palace.

Andrew Griffiths was presented with the honour by Prince William and talked briefly with him about the present challenges facing education.

Mr Griffiths was formerly headteacher of Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Lower Gornal, during a period of success for the school. During his leadership he took Ellowes Hall from near the bottom of the league tables to its current position as one of the leading schools in the borough.

He is now head of a multi-academy trust, called Invictus, which comprises secondary schools Ellowes Hall, Crestwood School, in Kingswinford, Ounsdale High School, in Wombourne, and Edgecliff High School, in Kinver.

Mr Griffiths, aged 60, of Stourbridge, travelled to London with his wife Lucy, formerly headteacher at Jesson's CE Primary for 22 years, and daughter Ruth.

"I am still overwhelmed by it all to be honest," he said. "Prince William presented me with the honour. He asked me what I thought the challenges for education were. I told him it was all about ensuring students get access to the best learning and the best jobs.

"It was a wonderful occasion and an experience I will never forget," he said.

Mr Griffiths has lived in the West Midlands since 1983 and his first post in the area was as a history teacher at Pensnett School.

Mr Griffiths taught in Walsall for two years before returning to Ellowes as deputy headteacher.

He recently spoke to the Princess Royal when she visited Himley Hall Sailing Club.

37,000 patients use urgent care centre

MORE than 37,000 patients have been through the doors of new urgent care centre since it opened seven months ago to take the pressure off a busy A&E.

The site replaced the walk-in centre at Holly Hall in Dudley.

Since it opened in April, medical staff at the urgent care centre have seen 37,446 people with the most common illnesses being sore throats, coughs, stomach pains and rashes.

Health chiefs said the centre was helping to reduce the number of people attending A&E unnecessarily.

All patients needing urgent treatment arrive at the hospital through the emergency department.

They are assessed by a nurse who decides whether they need to go to the urgent care centre or the emergency department. If their condition is not believed to be urgent, they may be referred to their GP.

Health chiefs say this takes the decision-making out of patients' hands and should reduce the number of people being treated in A&E who do not need to be there.

Addition

Clinical director for urgent care Hassan Paraiso said the centre had been successful in reducing pressure on the emergency centre. He said: "The urgent care centre has been a great addition to the hospital and has helped to ensure our emergency department can be used appropriately, treating patients with life threatening conditions, serious illnesses or fractures."

Thirty new jobs were created when the centre opened and Malling Health was awarded the five-year £18million contract to run the 24/7 service.

The decision to close the Holy Hall walk-in centre proved unpopular with the community.

Healthwatch Dudley, which represents the views of patients in the borough, was drafted in to carry out an independent patient survey of people attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital and at the walk-in centre.

The results were then used by Dudley CCG to help with plans for the replacement service.

Scouts launch Poppy Appeal

Amblecote Scout Group selling poppies in Sainsbury's, alongside customer services manager Marie Cooney

AMBLECOTE Scout Group launched the Annual Poppy Appeal at their local Sainsbury's supermarket.

The group was supported by members of The Royal British Legion Riders Branch, who together with store colleagues and the Amblecote Royal British Legion, will be running this year's campaign in store, until November 11.

For the first time this year, members of the store "Craft-e" Community Club, will be donating their vast collection of knitted, sewn and crocheted poppies and poppy related items to boost the collection in store.

The ladies making up the group consist of colleagues family members and customers and first got together in August.

There will also be poppy inspired products on sale in-store, including jute bags and two flower bouquets, with all profits going to The Royal British Legion and for the first time, online customers will be able to make a donation and receive a stick on paper poppy, when ordering before November 11.

Last year, in honour of the Centenary of the First World War, customers and colleagues helped raise £7m for The Royal British Legion.

Customers will be able to recycle poppies in-store after Armistice Day, from the November 12 to 24, with all collected poppies going back to the Royal British Legion, to either make new poppies or to generate more funds.

Concern at figures for migrants in the region

MORE than 56,000 migrants have registered to work and claim benefits in the Black Country over the last six years, new figures reveal

And the number of foreign nationals granted national insurance numbers soared by 39 per cent in just one year, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics. The national average is 26 per cent.

In 2014 a total of 9,806 migrants registered to work across the region, a rise for 2,747 from the previous year. The figures also show that since 2008 a total of 56,027 migrants have registered for national insurance numbers in the Black Country.

Local councillors say they are concerned about the potential strain on resources prompted by influx of migrants, while an MEP has accused local authorities in the region of being 'pathetic and weak' for failing to stand up to the Government.

Last year Sandwell saw 3,808 new registrations, up 37 per cent from 2013, while almost 20 per cent of all residents in the borough were born outside the UK.

Wolverhampton saw 3,536 registrations, an increase of 34 per cent from the previous year. In Walsall there 1,559 migrants registered, a rise of 42 per cent.

Dudley saw the biggest rise with 903 NI registrations in 2014, an increase of 63 per cent. West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge, also a Dudley councillor, said he was stunned by the magnitude of the increase in the Black Country.

Police step up patrols at park

YOBS have been starting fires and smoking drugs in a Stourbridge park.

Police will be increasing patrols around Swan Pool Park, in Norton, following concerns from residents.

The Friends of Swan Pool Park group is trying to bring improvements to the park, off Studley Gate. A £9,000 youth shelter has been installed alongside new benches. Officers claim they have been called to 'large groups of youths' congregating, causing anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Andy Holder, from Norton neighbourhood police team, said: "Increased patrols will be conducted by officers.

"Any youths seen causing anti-social behaviour will be encountered. Warning letters will be issued and proportionate use of stop and search powers regarding drug use."

War and weapons talk by historian

HISTORIAN David Dunham will be giving a talk titled Great War Small Arms and Weapons. The talk on First World War weapons will take place on Wednesday, November 11, at 7.30pm in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Glass Centre. Admission is £2 for non-members.

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Problem of poor pitches prompts more investment

TWO fifths of sports pitches in Dudley borough are in a 'poor' state, according to a new report.

An investigation has found that only 87 of 167 pitches were found to be average or above average condition — and 70 were rated as poor.

It comes as council chiefs unveiled a scheme, worth up to £2 million, to create three new all-weather pitches at The Dell Stadium, in Pensnett, on land near Dudley College off Priory Road and at Hillcrest School, Netherton. But campaigners are urging for action over existing pitches after pitch hire fees were increased by two per cent this year.

Four pitches on King George V playing fields at Wordsley Park were among those in a poor state. At Greenfields, near Kingswinford Community Centre, the two adult football pitches are both rated as poor.

Brian Sutton, of the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League, said: "Money has not been spent on these pitches for years."

Dudley councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We are passionate about encouraging people to lead healthy and active lifestyles through sport. We have to balance this with the significant cuts to our funding from national government, but we are working closer than ever with community groups to look at ways of delivering services differently.

"We are already investigating the potential for extra funding from the FA to improve pitches in three areas of the borough."

Vagrant found accommodation

ACCOMMODATION has been found for a homeless man who pitched a tent off Dudley high street.

Concerns were raised after the man arrived at Rutland Passage on October 20. Police arrested the man on suspicion of vagrancy and his dog was put in kennels. A team of officers have worked to find him accommodation in Lye and he and his dog have now been reunited.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Our officers have finally been able to secure accommodation for a rough sleeper and his dog who had recently pitched a tent in Dudley.

"The officers had been trying to get the pair into a hostel. While in custody, our team worked with a range of specialists to fast track his case."

Qatar flights to take off in March

QATAR Airways is to launch a new service between Birmingham Airport and Doha on March 30 next year. The city is the fourth destination in the UK served by Qatar Airways which will operate eight flights per week.

New zoo arrivals otterly adorable

Buddy and Keyah with the youngsters

IT has been a double celebration for a family of otters at Dudley Zoo after five youngsters started to emerge from the underground den where they were born.

The otterly-adorable babies were born to Buddy and Keyah around two or three months ago, according to keepers at the attraction, in Castle Hill.

Staff have caught glimpses of the pups popping out the den, called a holt. Fast thinking keepers were able to get the first photographs of the cute animals. In them, the youngsters can be seen being cared for by their doting parents while taking their first looks at outside.

And it has been a double celebration for the family as Keyah has just celebrated her sixth birthday.

Keepers at the zoo said because the youngsters were born underground it was difficult to know exactly when they had been born.

Section leader Jay Haywood said: "Although we do not know the exact date of birth of the five pups we think it was between two and three months ago. They are now starting to eat solid food and are looking for their own meals."

Mr Haywood said to help them along they were providing small chunks of meat and fish for them.

He added: "Even though they have only recently started to make an appearance they are doing well and getting more and more independent each day."

Buddy, aged 10, arrived at the zoo from Lake District Wildlife Park this April as a new mate for Keyah.

Keepers said the pair had fell for each other right away.

Drop-out daughter attacked her parents

A UNIVERSITY drop-out launched a savage attack on her parents when told to stop spending so much time in bed, a judge heard.

Hayley Robson hurled a half-pint glass at the head of accountant father Lee, badly cutting his wrist as he shielded his face, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The furious 22-year-old then turned on her mother Rachel, punching her in the face and biting her forearm, said Mr Gurdeep Garcha, prosecuting.

Trouble flared at the family home in Green Meadow, Pedmore, on December 30 over the way in which the daughter's life had spiralled downwards since she turned to drugs and alcohol after leaving Worcester University without completing a business studies course.

"The discussion over the fact she did not have a job, was spending most of her days in bed and was not making productive use of her life became heated," continued Mr Garcha.

"The defendant, who had been drinking wine, threw a half-pint glass as hard as she could at her father who was sitting on the settee but managed to raise his hands to protect his face. The glass smashed into his right wrist, cutting it and damaging a tendon.

Punched

"Mrs Robson stood up and was punched several times in the head and face before being bitten on the forearm."

She received a black eye and bloodied nose.

The daughter then accidentally hit her brother Simon when he came into the room after hearing the commotion.

She was later arrested at a different address.

Her parents said in a victim impact statement that they both loved their daughter but were relieved she was no longer living at the same address since the atmosphere was much happier for their other two children.

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said: "Their daughter has an underlying problem. She needs professional help.

"There is no application for a restraining order. It is hoped that the family can make up and resume contact in the not too far distant future."

Robson, now living in Queen's Cross, Dudley, admitted wounding and assault. She was given a 15 month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years and ordered to co-operate with mental health treatment.

Great-grandfather Wally Fowler from Kinver is back on track and in the saddle achieving best times in cycling time trials and smashing records

Wally is speeding around at age of 81

MOST 81-year-olds would be taking the chance to relax and enjoy their retirement but not Wally Fowler.

The great-grandfather has broken a world cycling record for his age group.

Wally, from Brindley Brae, Kinver, managed to cycle 143 laps (35.77km) in the age category of the 80 to 84 hour time trial in Newport.

It smashed the previous record of 29.187 km set by New Zealander Peter Grandiek only last month.

It is the third world record that the veteran has clocked up in the last three years, with the 200m and 500m time trials.

Now Wally aims for the 'pursuit' crown, a 2km race which he will compete for at the World Track Masters next June in Manchester.

But he did not start cycling competitively until 10 years ago — 50 years after he originally gave it up.

He said: "I went back on the track after 50 years just to see if I still could. I found that I could and was persuaded by members of Halesowen Cycling Club that I should ride in a masters event."

NEWS IN BRIEF

22-room home plan turfed out

PLANS to turn a warehouse into a house of multiple occupation have been rejected. Krundil Developments wanted to turn the building, in Pennant Road, Cradley Heath, into a home with 22 rooms.

Neighbours lodged eight objections, claiming they were not informed what sort of accommodation would be offered. There were also concerns over parking and increased noise.

It was refused on the grounds of insufficient recycling facilities, lack of off-street parking and the building being too close to another home.

Old Liberace car to go on display

THE stand from Dudley-based Footman James at The Classic Motor Show will feature a glitzy car reputedly once owned by the flamboyant entertainer Liberace.

The specialist motor insurance broker has secured a 1931 Cadillac Fleetwood Drop Head Coupe featuring 23.7 carat gold leaf clad bodywork, silver external door handles and 24ct gold-plated internal door handles. It will go on display at the NEC, Birmingham from November 13-15.

Today, the car is owned by Cheshire based enthusiast Mike Radcliffe.

Familiar voice for village quiz

BROADCASTER Alan Dedicoat, the National Lottery's 'Voice of the Balls', will be returning to host the annual Children In Need quiz at Kinver.

The BBC announcer has been invited to host the fundraising quiz on November 20 by the village's rotary club. It will be the 14th year that the broadcaster has led the quiz at Kinver Community Association centre, Sterrymere Gardens. To enter a team contact Rotarian Mike Deathridge on 07801 554669.

Christmas fair at pub to aid animal charity

A CHRISTMAS gift fair raising money to feed horses at the Animal Healing Trust will take place in Dudley later this month.

It will be held at The Bell pub on Bromsgrove Road, Belbroughton on Saturday, November 28 from 11am to 4pm.

Designer jewellery, clothing, wellness and beauty products, candles and Christmas crafts are among the items that will be on sale at the fair.

To book a stall call 01562731928.

Church autumn fair

ST Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, Sedgley, hosts an autumn fair this weekend. Stalls will include Christmas gifts and cards, toys, games and crafts, home-made cakes, toiletries, clothes, books and bric-a-brac. It takes place from 10am to 1pm with proceeds to church funds.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER says he cannot take much more James Bond. After so many trailers, guest appearances, premieres, interviews and the rest of the Bond ballyhoo, he feels he has already seen Spectre several times over. He asks: "Has 007 never heard of overkill?" Probably not.

SPARE us the surprise and the big, panicky headlines over the World Health Organisations' latest claim that bacon and other processed meats can cause cancer. If you have the Full English Breakfast often enough, it may turn into the Full English Tumour. But this is not news. The link between meat, especially processed meat, and cancer has been known for years. A study of 500,000 Europeans concluded that those who eat two portions of meat a day increase their risk of bowel cancer by more than a third compared to those who eat it once a week. And that was in 2005. How quickly we choose to forget information we don't like. Or maybe bacon is seriously bad for your memory.

DOES a day go by without supporters of Jeremy Corbyn proudly boasting of his massive mandate? Corbyn took a whopping 59.5 per cent of the vote. That's 251,417 of the 422,664 votes cast and it looks impressive. But, lest we forget, the Labour-leadership election was open not only to existing Labour Party members but to the entire nation. Virtually anyone could pay £3 to register as a Labour 'supporter' and they had many weeks in which to do it. So here was a transforming event, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all the angry, disaffected folk in the UK to rise up and support a new sort of politics. Here was a chance for 45 million potential voters to throw their weight behind a genuine Left-wing politician, for less than the price of a pint. Corbyn's 251,417 votes represents only about one voter in every 180 in the UK. That 'massive mandate' is maybe not so massive, after all.

SAUDI Arabia's ambassador to Britain complained a few days ago of a lack of respect for his country and deplored an "alarming change in the way Saudi Arabia is discussed in Britain." A couple of days later, one Saudi prince was detained in Lebanon following the biggest drug seizure in the history of Beirut airport. The next day, another Saudi prince was accused of assaulting three American woman and holding them captive at a mansion in Beverly Hills. Respect? You earn it.

WE worry about a shortage of pumpkins forcing us to use turnips for Halloween lanterns . . . A few hundred miles away, on the borders of the Balkans, among that massive trudging queue of humanity, old folk and children, having survived the perils of the Med, will soon be freezing to death.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Civic Society first meeting 'positive'

THE first meeting of the new Dudley Civic Society has been hailed a success. Organisers say they believe the group will help attract new businesses to the town.

Fifteen people attended the public meeting at The Station Hotel in Castle Hill.

Steve Briscoe, who was instrumental in setting up the group, said: "It was an extremely positive evening, with a good turn out for a first event. We discussed what is good in the town and what needs to get better.

"The main thing was that everyone was singing from the same sheet.

"Our main focus was on enterprise within the town, and encouraging more town centre trade, from the likes of bigger name businesses and organisations. We would like to organise family events for the community too." The society is intended to be an outlet for ideas about the town, without being influenced by politics.

Mr Briscoe said Dudley Councillors were also willing to get behind the group, with plans to hold an annual general meeting next month.

"Our main hope is that more people can get behind us and frame the city and its people as positively as possible," he said. "There are a lot of stories about at the minute which put local towns and cities in a negative light as being bad places to live and work, but with this group we want none of that – only positive suggestions for how great Dudley is and can be."

For more information on Dudley's Civic Society visit dudleycivicsociety.com or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/dudleycivicsociety

£20m council cuts defended by leader

By Richard Guttridge

THE leader of Dudley Council has defended proposals to make £20 million worth of cuts over the next three years.

Dudley Museum and Art Gallery would close and up to 275 jobs would be axed under cost-cutting plans.

Leaders faced criticism from opposition members who claimed that cuts could have been tackled without harming services.

Councillor Pete Lowe came under pressure at the council's first cabinet meeting since the cuts were revealed last week.

Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley said the Labour-run council should have been better prepared to ensure such severe cuts affecting frontline services were not necessary.

"What's disappointing is not what's in this document but that for three and a half years Labour in Dudley has had the opportunity to make changes to the way services are delivered so that we manage our finances better than this," he said.

Stopped

"I said two years ago that if a different delivery model wasn't introduced we would continue to cut until some services were not provided any more. Austerity isn't new. Yet here we are with another budget and more services cut or stopped altogether."

But Councillor Lowe said the authority had been forced to contend with unprecedented Government funding cuts.

"We have seen significant cuts in Dudley, over and above that of elsewhere. We have seen cuts of £61 per person in Dudley compared to £18 in Windsor. How is that fair?" he said.

Finance boss, former leader Councillor David Sparks said: "We are facing even more horrendous cuts than we have already faced, they can't be compared to what we faced under the Labour Government."

Library opening hours could be cut with public toilets, dog bins and gritting lorries also in the firing line.

Rethink call on museum closure bid

Petitioners, front, Steven Briscoe and Ross Crompton and, back John Parman and Lynn Horton

CAMPAIGNERS say losing Dudley Museum and Art Gallery would be a big loss to the town centre and have vowed to step up their bid to save the building.

The St James's Road attraction, faces closure under wider plans by Dudley Council to save £20 million over the next three years. Council bosses claim arts and culture in the borough would not be harmed by its closure.

Artefacts would instead move to Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, in Tipton Road, near the Black Country Living Museum.

But campaigners say the move will take another attraction out of the town centre and further hit footfall for shops and the market.

Finance boss and former council leader Councillor David Sparks said he supported closing the museum, as it was unsuitable for people in wheelchairs or with significant disabilities.

"My view is that it's better moving out to more suitable premises, selling that building and reusing the funds more effectively," he said.

Almost 3,000 people have signed a petition against the move which was presented to Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, ahead of a council cabinet meeting. Petition organiser, 25-year-old Ross Crompton from Upper Gornal, said it was important to retain town centre attractions.

People can view the petition via you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-dudley-museum-art-gallery

Up to 150 jobs will go on offer at jobs fair

AROUND 150 posts will be up for grabs at a jobs fair being held in Brierley Hill next week.

It has been organised by Dudley South MP Mike Wood with more than 40 companies and organisations expected to taking part.

It will be held at Cable Plaza, at Waterfront West from 2-6pm on Thursday, November 12.

Mr Wood said more posts may be available as more businesses sign up to the event.

Among the companies already signed up to take part are London Midland, e.on, Virgin Trains, Dudley College, McDonald's, the Royal Navy, Royal Army Engineers and Barclays.

Conservative MP Mr Wood said many of the firms would either be recruiting or offering training opportunities with the majority of positions in the Dudley area.

"I helped organise jobs fairs when employed by other MPs. Therefore one of my priorities was to organise one once becoming an MP myself," he said.

"This will be an opportunity for local employers to advertise themselves to the jobs market throughout Dudley South and beyond."

Companies still have time to sign up for a stall at the fair.

They are asked to call the constituency office on 01384 913123 to reserve a free stall.

People interested in the job vacancies or taking up extra training are asked to simply turn up on the day from 2pm.

Free parking to give festive cheer

A BUSY Brierley Hill shopping centre is offering some early Christmas cheer by offering customers two hours free parking, running every day until the new year.

Visitors at the Moor Centre's 22 shops can now save money on parking. Matt Pegg, asset manager of London and Cambridge Properties, which manages the centre on behalf of owners Evolve Estates, said the decision had been made after listening to traders and shoppers.

He said: "We are keen to get people to shop locally and support their neighbourhood retailers this Christmas and believe offering two hours of free parking will make a significant difference to store owners in the Moor Centre and in the town.

"It will be a real boost."

Suspected stolen car hits lamp post

A MAN in his 20s was seriously hurt when a suspected stolen car hit a lamp post. The driver lost control on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, around 1am last Thursday. A second man in his 20s was arrested and bailed to allow him to receive hospital treatment.

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Temporary staff earn up to £800 for one day

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council is paying temporary staff in its beleaguered children's services department between £425 and £800 a day.

This amounts to the authority spending more than £200,000 on interim staff so far this year.

The council, which has just unveiled a drastic package of cuts, employs 12 temporary workers in its children's services department – at a daily cost ranging from £425 to £800.

The scale of the Labour-led authority's temporary staffing has been criticised by opposition parties.

New figures reveal a total of £204,000 will have been spent by the end of October on part-time staff in children's services.

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "Someone needs to be held to account as to why Dudley Council needs to employ 12 part-time people to put the mess of our children's services right."

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley described a 'catalogue of failure' at the council's children's services department at a meeting earlier this month.

In response, Councillor Ian Cooper said: "What we're doing is getting expertise in of national providence, and getting it in quickly and efficiently to do a job. I'd ask UKIP what price they would pay for the safety, well-being and aspirations of the children in Dudley. Those are our priorities.

"The interim staff have been brought in to do a job and they're delivering that job."

Chance to shape healthcare future

DUDLEY'S hospital trust is inviting members to stand for election to become a governor and be involved in shaping the future of the borough's healthcare.

Elections are open for vacancies in the public constituency of Stourbridge and the staff constituency of Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists.

Any member of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is eligible to stand.

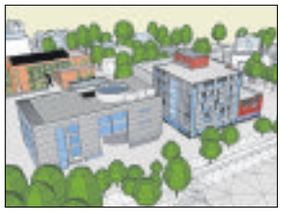
Chairman David Badger said: "Standing for election is a great opportunity for patients, their partners and carers to influence the way healthcare is provided."

Call Helen Board on 01384 321124, email foundationmembers@dgh.nhs.uk or visit www.dudleygroup.nhs.uk

Man accused after officer was bitten

A MAN will appear in court after a police officer in Tividale was allegedly bitten on the arm. Benjamin Pearce, age 22, of Hill Road, has been bailed to December 3 at Sandwell Magistrates Court charged with of assault.

First glimpse at £12m college campus



Artist's impression of the campus

THIS is the first glimpse of a new £12 million campus that will be built at Dudley College.

The new centre – to be known as Dudley Advance II – would complete the college's learning quarter and be part-funded by its controversial contract with Saudi Arabia.

The college has won a three-year deal to mentor staff in Saudi Arabia and create three new learning establishments. Cash from the deal was earmarked to help complete work on the Learning Quarter.

It will be positioned alongside the £7 million manufacturing and engineering building Dudley Advance which opened in September 2014.

A formal planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council for the Centre for Advanced Construction Technologies.

Principal Lowell Williams said: "Not only will Advance II be a fantastic building in itself, but more importantly it will help transform the construction industry in the region.

"This will lead to more young people and adults developing the higher technical level skills they need for future careers in a changing construction industry."

The new 37,000 sq ft centre includes specialist workshops, classrooms, project spaces and resource areas and student welfare and support facilities focused around a four-storey 'internal building site' called The Hanger.

According to a planning statement submitted with the application, the new centre will be a 'contemporary design which closely reflects the curriculum uses within, whilst paying sufficient respect in massing terms to its immediate context'.

Visitor numbers fall at top borough venues

THE number of visitors to four main venues across a Black Country borough has plunged by more than 20,000 in just two years.

New figures highlight a significant fall in demand at Stourbridge Town Hall, Dudley Town Hall, Brierley Hill Civic Hall and the Cornbow in Halesowen.

Between April 2012 and May 2013, the quartet of venues saw 136,103 come through their doors.

However, from April 2014 to May 2015, this number plummeted to just 115,695.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said there was no single reason for the drop in visitor numbers and the authority was working hard to attract people to its civic halls.

But Ukip leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said the decline in visitors was an indictment of the authority's backing for the arts and entertainment. He said: "I think this is a sad reflection of the council's support for the arts.

"We have great artworks and glass works in stores and there are so many pieces that people don't get to see. I believe it's the duty of councillors to uphold our heritage and sometimes that message is lost.

Heritage

"We need to get it out there and publicise the fact that we've got so many great works of art and amazing heritage.

"Let's get them on show rather than hide them away – then I think the visitor numbers would increase."

The number of people heading to Brierley Hill Civic Hall increased, however, from 28,476 in 2012-13 to 31,393 in 2014-15.

The reduction in the number of attendees at Dudley Town Hall from 37,607 in 2012-13 to 27,315 in 2014-15 can in some way be explained by the closure of the main hall at the setting.

Councillor Ahmed said: "It's difficult to say exactly why the visitor numbers have gone down but it could be linked to the economy and people spending less money.

"We are encouraging people to come, holding different events and trying to attract them to the halls.

"It's the same everywhere –pubs and clubs are also not as busy and people aren't visiting as much. I assume it's because people are trying to save money.

"The council is doing everything to support the arts and entertainment."

All shook up over rare Elvis disc

Valuer Ed Willetts from Aston's Auctioneers with the rare Elvis Presley acetate being sold this week

FANS of Elvis Presley have been left all shook up by the discovery of a rare recording that is due to be auctioned in the Black Country.

An acetate of Suspicion, dating back to 1961, was going under the hammer in Dudley this week.

The 78rpm record, which was made for Memphis radio station WHBQ, was expected to fetch around £12,000 at Tuesday's sale at Aston's Auctioneers.

The A-side features The King singing Suspicion four years before he released it as a single in 1965. It was not officially recorded as an Elvis track until March 19, 1962, so this acetate precedes that by at least six months.

The reverse features an advert for blind pianist Ray Charles's August 20, 1961, concert at Ellis Auditorium – the first mixed race show in Memphis.

Film poster and record specialist Steve Kennedy said it was a fantastic moment in social history and that the song was one of Presley's favourites.

"Suspicion was one of his personal favourites because he felt it allowed him to show his full range of vocal talent."

"The amazing thing about this record is that on one side you're getting a slice of social history and on the other you've got a rare Elvis acetate."

NEWS IN BRIEF

EofE top bill at Mayor fundraiser

DUDLEY band EofE headline a fundraising gig in aid of the Mayor's five charities.

Councillor Steve Waltho will unveil a line-up of four local bands at the River Rooms in Stourbridge for the Mayor Rocks concert on Thursday, December 3 from 7.30pm.

Also appearing will be Black Country Rock, who cover AC/DC and Thin Lizzy tracks, Avalon UK and alternative rockers Burn Down Rydell.

Tickets cost £5 each and are available by calling 07412 531924 or emailing suzylimesrdc@hotmail.co.uk

Overhaul at pub damaged by fire

A PUB that was badly damaged by fire is to get a £325,000 overhaul.

The Moon Under Water, in High Street, Cradley Heath, was closed for two days in September following the blaze that was believed to have been started by a discarded cigarette.

It caused damage to the front entrance of the Wetherspoons pub, its structure and sign. Alongside plans for repairs, it has been revealed that a major revamp of the pub will also take place. The aim is to carry out the refurbishment before Christmas, with as little disruption as possible.

New-year start on community centre

A COMMUNITY centre finally looks set to be built in Dudley in 2016 — seven years after it was first proposed.

The facility has long been planned near the Donkey Pools playing fields on Priory Road but has ran into difficulties over funding and the site.

However, ward councillor Ken Finch said he expected work to begin in the new year. He said: "It has been a long battle but I'm pleased that it now looks like the community will get the facility that they deserve."

Have a say on issues at drop-in session

PEOPLE in Tipton can have their say on neighbourhood issues at a drop-in session tomorrow (Friday). It will take place at the Jubilee Park bonfire event from 5 to 7.30pm in the Community Tent, at the park, off Powis Avenue.

Residents in the Great Bridge, Princes End and Tipton Green wards can give feedback on how the council and its partner organisations have met 'ward pledges' agreed last year.

The session will also help set new priorities to improve the area.

Car hits block of flats

A CAR ploughed through a hedge before hitting a block of flats in Hagley after a crash with a truck. Part of Kidderminster Road was blocked off in the aftermath of the accident on Friday afternoon. The car hit a block of flats in Newlands Close but drivers of both vehicles escaped injury.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Man, that ridiculous PC crowd are back

REALLY, I should be livid that the politically-correct barmpots have taken it upon themselves to indoctrinate our children yet further by banning the use of phrases such as 'sissy' or 'man-up' in the playground.

Aside from the fact that I am fairly sure that no schoolchild has said 'sissy' since about 1975, I do think the way that the education system abuses its privileged position to brainwash impressionable youngsters with political correctness and green ideology is one of the most sinister developments of the past 20 years or so.

Particularly as it has coincided with Britain's schools plunging down the world league tables in the things that really do matter, like reading, writing, and doing sums.

Groups of pupils will also be encouraged to inform on their peers to an appointed "Gender Champion". Wasn't that sort of thing supposed to have died out with the fall of the Berlin Wall and all that?

And yet, strangely enough, I do find myself agreeing with the PC brigade on at least one aspect of this assault on free speech.

'Man-up' is a truly hateful phrase, and children really should be taught that it is never acceptable to use it. In this context at least, 'man' is a noun, not a verb. Yes, you can man a car park. But you can't man-up, man-down or anything else. That's why teachers should be telling them it's banned.

■ ■ ■

A NEW survey, compiled by a think-tank nobody has ever heard of, says Wolverhampton and Sandwell are the two most miserable places in the UK.

Really? I can't believe that. I mean what do people in the West Midlands have to be miserable about?

After all, it's not as if we are constantly patronised by a liberal London elite which seems to revel in forcing its strange values on us, is it?

■ ■ ■

AND I bet if the people in power actually did start listening to folk in this area, they could save a bit of money.

Over the past few months we have been repeatedly been told how ministers of successive governments were dazzled and 'mesmerised' by Camilla Batmanghelidjh, and were persuaded into pouring millions of pounds into the appallingly managed Kids Company. All the evidence suggests that much of this money has been wasted.

Yet, I bet if they had sought the advice of anybody from the Black Country, they would not have been 'mesmerised' at all. They would have come to the same conclusion that I did several years ago.

That Camilla Batmanghelidjh was just a fruitcake in silly clothes. And think how many police stations that cash would have paid for.

Mary during her fundraising skydive back in 2011

The protest in Rome, which Mary attended

Roy Shipley seen with his wife Michelle in 2009

Mary continues fight over asbestos deaths

One mother is seeking justice for workers who may have been affected by asbestos. **ADAM BURLING** reports

MEN working long shifts in dust-filled factories, with no thought for health and safety and there is not a mask in sight.

This may sound like a scene from generations ago – but it has been happening as recently as the last 20 years.

And ex-workers are continuing to die after developing asbestos-related diseases.

The issue is now becoming more prominent than ever as manufacturers face court cases from the families that have been left behind.

In the Black Country, one woman is using her anger and grief over her son's death to make sure other people are not left in the same position.

Mary Law's fight began when her son Roy Shipley died at the age of 51, after a career working as an electrician in factories where he was exposed to asbestos.

Campaign

Since then she has been battling for greater compensation for the families of asbestos victims.

Now the 77-year-old from Dudley has taken her campaign to Italy where a ruling against the boss of a firm which allegedly contributed to the death of hundreds was overturned. Mrs Law, whose son died in 2010, opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago.

After getting involved with the Mesothelioma UK charity, she became aware of the case against Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny who was accused of failing to ensure the safety of workers in asbestos-cement plants run by his now defunct Eternit group in Italy in the 1970s and 80s.

More than 3,000 workers died.

He was convicted in 2012, after a three-year trial, and sentenced in absentia to 16 years in prison. But a court in Rome has since ruled that he should not have been convicted because the verdict came more than 12 years after the crime.

This made the case subject to a 'limitation' law. Mrs Law and fellow protesters waved banners and placards outside the Italian court and is planning to attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

"I'm furious about what has happened. I'm very angry about the lack of support for the families of victims," she says. "In this country the Government is not ensuring that people get enough compensation.

"My son had mesothelioma of the abdomen and didn't stand a chance."

A court ruling in 2013 meant thousands of sufferers and their dependants in the UK will be able to get damages from a special £350 million pot over the next decade.

Mary Law outside the Arc-Aid shop with Stuart Baker, of construction industry union UCATT

Those diagnosed after July 25, 2012, who cannot sue former employers as they have gone bust or insurance details were lost, will be eligible.

Mrs Law says thousands of families are not getting enough compensation.

About 2,400 people die every year of the disease and numbers are set to increase over the next 30 years, with an estimated death toll of between 56,000 and 63,000.

It comes as a cross-party group of MPs have called for the eradication of all the remaining asbestos in Britain's workplaces and public buildings.

A report by the all-party parliamentary group on occupational safety and health calls for regulations requiring the safe phased and planned removal of all the remaining asbestos in Britain.

The parliamentary group found asbestos is still a serious threat.

This year, according to official figures, 5,000 people in Britain are likely to die prematurely as a result of asbestos exposure.

This is around three times the number of road accident deaths.

Research

Aside from campaigning, Mrs Law also works as a chiropodist and is a dedicated fundraiser, recently scaling the heights of Mount Snowdon in aid of Mesothelioma research.

She completed the walk up the highest Welsh peak with husband Bill, aged 80, and friends Ian Halls and Ian Edgington, to raise nearly £2,000 for charity.

She has undertaken a number of charity events, including a sky dive in 2011, to raise funds into the research of the disease following the death of her son.

She is determined to keep going – and in the process raise the profile of the battle facing the families of people who died after being exposed to asbestos.

The memory of her son will stay with her throughout, and keep her going in the fight for justice.

She says: "Losing my son was devastating, he was a strong, lovely man who had achieved much. If I could have done something like I am about to do to have saved him, I would have done so willingly."

Lack of media interest in speedway

IN 1960 I went to my first speedway meeting and have followed the sport ever since. I started in Edinburgh, then Wimbledon, Halifax, Coventry and now Cradley. I have always been pleased at the way in which the sport has welcomed families.

No problems with fans mixing together – no trouble. Even going to Poland and seeing the way in which we were welcomed.

But unfortunately, we have lost tracks for housing, other sports and because of the 'noise'. Changes have been made to accommodate these issues, with silencers being one. But now we have to put up with a curfew that councils have imposed. Last week's Cradley meeting was stopped due to the curfew. We had only had ten heats but the meeting was finished due to this restriction.

The other part of being a sport that is ignored is in the coverage that we get in the media. When we have a world champion who is British the general media is lacking in its support. Please help us celebrate our success before we are robbed of our sport.

A BLACKWELL
Wollaston

Petition on art gallery closure bid

LIKE many people, I am deeply concerned with Dudley Council's proposal to close Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

As custodians of the museum, the council should be looking at ways to protect and promote it, not discard it and deprive our town of yet another piece of its illustrious history.

I recognise that cuts have to be made, but not at the cost of such a significant asset. Councillors have suggested the relocation of the museum's treasures elsewhere in the borough, but that misses the point; the town has already lost so much over the years, it cannot afford to lose anything else, and deprive future generations of a chance to explore their heritage.

I have created a petition, urging the council to reconsider their decision. I implore anyone who feels the same way to sign it.

The petition can be found at: https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/savedudleymuseum

R CROMPTON
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Legislation could benefit thousands

ON 6 November, MPs will have the chance to support an important piece of legislation that could benefit hundreds of thousands of patients across the UK.

The Off-patent Drugs Bill would improve access to low-cost, effective treatments for a range of conditions – from breast cancer to multiple sclerosis – and I would urge our local MP to support it.

The bill would ensure that drugs that have fallen out of patent, but have since proved effective for clinical uses outside of their original licence, are routinely available on the NHS.

With these drugs often being very-low cost, it makes economic as well as clinical sense for them to be more widely available. Backed by the UK's largest breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Now, along with a host of other charities including Prostate Cancer UK, Alzheimer's Society and Bloodwise, the Bill needs 100 MPs to vote in favour to take it to the next stage.

More work needs to be done to secure the parliamentary support it needs.

Time is running out, so as well as calling on our MP to back this bill that would help hundreds of thousands of patients, I would ask others to join me and add their support to the campaign by visiting breastcancernow.org/unlockdrugs

J MCGUIRE
Dudley

Disposables cost more

WITH regards to reading the letter in The Chronicle (October 22) by E Ward Davis about people who can't afford terry nappies shouldn't have children.

Let me tell you, it's more expensive to buy disposables than terry nappies.

The fact you have dogs and because of the 5p carrier bag charge your attitude is 'I will not pick my dog poo up'. You can buy a 100 poo bags for a £1 so my answer to you is 'if you can't afford poo bags don't have dogs'.

Let's just hope you can afford the fine of £75 per dog for each time you leave your dog mess on the street.

L WILLETTS
Halesowen

Irresponsible to not clean up

REGARDING the letter by E A Ward-Davies 'Not happy over smelly nappies' (Chronicle, October 22).

Is your issue with disposable nappies or the fact you have to now pay 5p for a carrier bag?

How irresponsible of you to not clean up after your four dogs.

Maybe you should take a leaf out of your own book and stick a terry nappy on your pooches or buy some poop bags. If you can't afford them, don't have dogs.

LISA BUTCHER
Brierley Hill

Don't have dogs

I AGREE with the comments about babies' nappies (Letters, October 22). However, I say to the writer 'if you can't afford poo bags you shouldn't have a dog!'

B BODDISON
Kingswinford

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Over 40 Years Experience

Mr Hand with one of the pears, which he hopes will take off again

Paul Hand at his home in Lentwardine who is helping to re-introduce the Tettenhall Dick Pear

An illustration of the once highly-popular fruit

Hand reared for pear's return

BRITAIN'S rarest pear – the Tettenhall Dick – is making a comeback from the brink of extinction.

"They look stunning and taste fantastic," says Paul Hand who has spearheaded a major replanting of 1,000 Tettenhall Dick trees around the Black Country.

He adds: "We have planted a large number and have succeeded in keeping the Tettenhall Dick pear as part of the Black Country landscape."

Tettenhall Dick trees were found in abundance along the streets and in back gardens of the Black Country.

But after the Second World War their popularity plummeted with trees torn down for redevelopment and a culture shift away from people growing their own food.

Mr Hand has fond memories of scrumping the pears in his childhood.

"At the turn of the millennium I decided to get off my backside and do something," he said. "I felt it was important. I went to Regis School in Tettenhall and I remember seeing a JCB ripping up the trees I used to scrump and the image stayed with me ever since then."

From his home in Leintwardine, Shropshire, he is making Tettenhall Dick wine and next year hopes to produce Tettenhall Dick Perry – a firm Black Country favourite from bygone times.

He said: "They are part of Black Country history. As a schoolboy in Castlecroft I would scrump them. Because you would bite into them before they were ripe they were hard, hence the saying 'Tettenhall Dick, hard as brick'.

"They didn't have a very long shelf life and were not fantastically juicy.

"It is a variety of pear that is more than 500 years old and from the pre-industrial Midlands.

"It spread far and wide with people telling me they had them in Cannock and as far away as Lichfield.

They were in everyone's gardens.

"My mother would never bottle them, so recently I thought I would try it and they tasted superb – just the sort of thing you would eat at a posh restaurant.

"They are real gourmet quality. They are absolutely fabulous. I find if you cook them for a few minutes and then put them in the freezer to preserve them it has the same effect and it is not as fiddly."

He has planted a Tettenhall Dick tree in Bantock Park in memory of his mother and 60 in Baggeridge Country Park.

A further 50 are in a fruit farm which he hopes will start selling them. Hundreds of others have been planted at schools and homes.

To re-introduce the pear trees he had to combine young wood samples from a Tettenhall Dick tree with rootstock – a process known as grafting.

He collected samples from Regis Road in Tettenhall and The Straits in Gornal. He said: "You slice and bind it. The trees don't grow from seeds. You have to join the wood with the roots and it will combine and grow.

"It is just like how Bramley Apples are made and all come from the original trees. So the Tettenhall Dick we grow today can be traced back to the time of just after the Norman Conquests."

Mr Hand runs a charity Bees & Trees that specialises in rare fruit. As well as lecturing he also trains people on plant grafting.

He is planning to hold a Tettenhall Dick party next year around September when they will be ripe to pick from the trees.

He said many people would make perry and wine from the pear but after the Second World War the fell in popularity.

Indeed he is making his own wine and next year plans to produce Tettenhall Dick perry.

"Fruit and tastes moved on and they fell in popularity," he said .

"It is my opinion that they originated in the Manor of Perton. The Manor of Perton disappeared and the pear got called Tettenhall Dick being the next place along."

Many people believe Perton's name derived from the fruit, 'Pear-town'.

"Pears have been in the doldrums for a long time," he said. "But I expect they will make a comeback. Joan Morgan who wrote the Book of Apples which has become the Bible of apples has just published the Book of Pears.

"The Tettenhall Dick is included and I expect that will help. People are now interested in food and I am sure this will help the Tettenhall Dick pear become trendy."

Mr Hand is now trying to get individuals to buy their own Tettenhall Dick tree so they can grow their own.

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Milkman hopes to be the cream

Semi-finalist in the 'Milkman of the Year' contest, John Vanes, of Dudley, at Dairy Crest depot, Wolverhampton

DEDICATED John Vanes hopes to be the cream of the crop in a competition to find the Milkman of the Year.

The 58-year-old, who lives in Dudley but delivers in Wolverhampton and Bewdley, is through to the semi-final of the competition. He followed in his father's footsteps by taking on the rounds more than 30 years ago.

John was presented with a certificate and £250 shopping vouchers for getting this far in the competition. The winner was being announced today (Thursday).

The semi-finalists were chosen after customers throughout the country voted for their favourite. Ron Rennie, manager of the Wolverhampton Dairy Crest depot where John is based, said: "John is an outstanding milkman who goes out of his way to do his best for his customers."

Ear bitten in club brawl

A BRAWL in a night club beer garden ended with a thug partially biting off the ear of another man who has been left scarred for life.

The fracas at The Glass House in Stourbridge started with some pushing, but quickly escalated into a fight between 17-year-old John Brogan and Kieron Lavelle, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 33-year-old ended up on the ground under the teenager while also being battered by a third man. In desperation, he bit into the ear of Mr Brogan and refused to let go, causing serious injury and lifetime scarring.

"The injured party described the pain as awful, " said Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting.

"He kept asking the defendant to let go but he would not."

Lavelle left after the club's security staff broke up the fight but was arrested soon afterwards.

Mr Brogan's ear was partially torn off and badly damaged in the attack, said Mr Walters. Stitches were required and there is permanent scarring. The victim had been to a boxing match and another club before reaching the Glass House, the court was told.

Mr Michael Anning, defending, said there was a strong element of two against one, but Lavelle was guilty of using 'excessive self defence.'

Lavelle from Olympian Court, Kidderminster, who had previous convictions for affray, wounding, battery and assault, admitted wounding during the May 12 brawl and was jailed for two years three months.

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Mystery Lanza artist visit leaves landlady shocked

A MYSTERIOUS writer who has been dubbed 'the Black Country Banksy' surprised a pub landlady by arriving in person with his trademark calling cards.

Described as being dressed in a long raincoat, with a long black shawl covering his face, the mystery man appeared at The Wheatsheaf pub, in Rowley Regis.

He had already baffled new landlady, Sara Harvey, after sending her his famous Mario Lanza drawings in the post.

Miss Harvey, who bought the pub in June, said that he had first written to her after seeing her in the Chronicle's sister publication The Express & Star in August – following the discovery of a hidden stained glass window in the pub.

She explained: "I couldn't believe it when he decided to send me letters, all with different post marks too.

A letter left by the mystery man

A Mario Lanza 'calling card' beer mat

Landlady Sara Harvey with the cards left by the Mario Lanza ghostwriter

Drawings

"He said that he had seen the article in the paper about the stained glass window, and that he remembered it as he used to drink in the pub himself many years ago.

"I had heard of Mario Lanza drawings being left in pubs but didn't really know a lot about the ghost-writer himself."

Miss Harvey received two letters, one with a cat food advert stuck to it, before he then appeared in person.

The mystery man has been baffling people for decades by leaving beer mats featuring sketches of the late opera singer Lanza in various pubs, cafes – and even at Dudley Zoo.

"His letters were amazing, but a little odd," said Miss Harvey, aged 37.

"Then the one day I was at the bar and this man with a long raincoat and black shawl came in and noticed that I had framed the cards and letters I had been sent.

"I was talking about how I wondered who it was, and then out the blue he pulled out a beer mat and book and said it was him.

"He was such a lovely gentleman, it was unbelievable to have met him in person – although he still wouldn't reveal himself fully."

It has been estimated that there have been 250,000 secret sketches from the ghost-writer scattered around the Black Country area since the 1960s.

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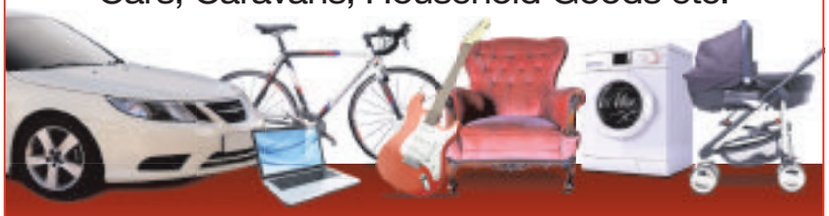

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Alan wings in with facts about owls

Replacement Beryl is in fine voice

West Mids Federation

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen held their annual Harvest Lunch in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 7.

The event was attended by 90-plus members. Chairman Margaret Tew gave a warm welcome to everyone. Margaret then said Grace. This was followed by a two-course meal, prepared and served by the Federation committee. Thanks were given to Margaret Bache who also lent a helping hand on the day.

Following the lunch the chairman introduced the entertainer for the afternoon, Beryl Briscoe. She is also known as the Black Country nightingale.

Beryl is a very talented singer who sang a wide variety of songs starting from the war years through to the 60s and 70s and finishing with a little bit of opera. She added a bit of humour with a few jokes which had everyone laughing.

She very kindly stepped in at the final hour when the original entertainer could not make the day. The chairman gave a vote of thanks to Beryl on members' behalf. Thanks were given to the committee for a very enjoyable afternoon. Everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the entertainment.

The next event being organised by the Federation will be the carol service at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge on December 12 at 2.15pm. Hot drinks and mince pies will follow in the church hall.

Members planning trip to Hagley Hall

Wollaston 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham presided over the October meeting, welcoming 43 members and three visitors. Apologies followed, after which the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer then gave a favourable report on financial affairs.

It was announced that a thank you card had been received from Macmillan Nurses for the donation made from the guild's summer tea party.

Sub-section reports followed. It was related that the bowling match with the Sons of Rest had been a great success, enjoyed by all, and had finished the season off very well. A visit is planned for June next year, to the grounds of Hagley Hall, possibly followed by afternoon tea.

The speaker Ian Drury gave a very interesting talk on the life of the Portland Vase. It is thought that the subject originated in Rome in 525AD, and may have been made as a wedding gift. It is now displayed in the British Museum. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

It was requested that members wishing to attend the Christmas Party on December 8 pay £5 at the November meeting.

Raffle prizes went to Carol Longmore and Jill Forest, while the competition was won by Ann Turner and Julie Willetts.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on November 10 at St James Church Hall, Wollaston, when Nigel Wiggin will speak on Old Hall stainless steel.

Kingswinford TG

KINGSWINFORD Guild met on October 12 in the community centre in High Street. The advertised speaker was unable to attend, but happily Alan Peace stepped in at very short notice to fill the gap.

He spoke about the life of the barn owl, with many surprising facts to correct the false impressions anyone may have. He also talked about the World Owl Conservation group which is attempting to save many threatened species. He was thanked by Joyce Major.

A name the doll competition was set in motion to help boost the funds of the Wednesday Club which have become somewhat depleted. The doll is a little beauty, knitted by Brenda Greenaway, who was unable to be present. In November the Wednesday Club is an open night to which gentlemen are invited. Chris Smith will speak about some unusual things made in the Black Country.

Kath Turner was thanked for her delightful flower arrangement which she donated as a raffle prize. Prizes were won by Sue Wilson and Enid Fennell.

Traditions of festive period

Sedgley Local History Society

THE next meeting is on Thursday, November 12 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

The speaker will be Mary Bodfish, a favourite with local history groups and chairman of Smethwick Local History Society.

Mary's illustrated talk follows the traditions and customs of the festive season through the ages. Along the way there are Pagan festivals, Roman ceremonies, the Nativity, Tudor feasting, Victorian embellishments and much more.

As usual visitors are invited, admission is £1. Annual membership costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

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Rowers close in on target ahead of oar-some task

A PAIR of intrepid rowers are edging closer to their fundraising target before they set off on a gruelling trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

The team needs to generate another £14,500 to reach the £85,000 total and compete in what is known as 'The World's Toughest Race'.

The SquareOneAtlantic team is made up of biology teacher Lee Felton, aged 30 from Dudley, and software engineer Sean Lannon, 31 from Newcastle. Over the past 12 months the dynamic duo, along with former member, Tom Hodgson, 41 from Walsall, have been collecting donations and sponsorship.

They will be crossing the Atlantic Ocean from La Gomera, in the Canary Islands, to Antigua, raising awareness for charities Rape Crisis England & Wales and Sport for Freedom. They will set out to row the 3,000 miles across the Atlantic unaided on December 14, for 40 continuous days and nights.

Mr Felton said: "I've been involved in some difficult and challenging projects – but this is a completely different ball game. It would be the challenge of a lifetime and also help thousands of people through the charitable work it would fund. I am utterly determined to do this."

The pair, who already have a vigorous training regime in place, will row in two-hour shifts 24 hours a day in an attempt to raise well over £100,00 for the two charities.

The team is looking for corporate sponsors who want to put their logo on their webpage, clothing, and on the boat. To support the project visit www.squareoneatlantic.com or check out their Twitter page @ square1atlantic

Lee Felton and Sean Lannon, with the boat they will be sailing in on their 3,000 mile Atlantic trip

Councillors arrange monthly surgeries

COUNCILLORS in a Dudley borough ward have organised a new monthly surgery. They hope it will benefit people unable to attend current weekend sessions.

Cradley and Wollescote Councillors are running a six-month trial surgery at the Providence Methodist Church in Windmill Hill. They began this week and will run every first Tuesday from 11.30am to 12.30pm until April next year.

It is hoped members of the public who can't get to the existing weekly Friday night and monthly Saturday surgeries will take advantage of the new dates.

Ward Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "People are more often than not asking to meet, sometimes this is because their case is complicated, or because they just want to speak to someone face to face.

"We are also finding that there is a small group of people who for one reason or another struggle when it comes to using phone-based services.

"What ever reason this is a chance to catch up with your councillor and sort out any long standing or difficult issues."

'Injustice' claim by leaders in mosque row

MUSLIM leaders say they have a 'sense of injustice' over their plans to build a new mosque in Dudley.

By Andrew Turton

As the battle returned to court, top judges heard leaders blame council officials for the delays over the building.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) and Dudley Council took their dispute to Court of Appeal in London. The association is fighting to stop the council seizing back land in Hall Street which it had earmarked for a new mosque.

The DMA suffered a blow last year when the High Court blocked an appeal against an earlier ruling. A judge had stuck out the DMA's defence against council plans to reclaim ownership of the site.

At the latest hearing, the DMA was asking the appeal court judges to overturn the High Court judgement.

Deadline

Their lawyers claim they have been the victims of an 'abuse of power' by the council.

The case centres on a lease granted by the council to the DMA for development of the land in 2003.

But work was unable to get under way after 'delays' in obtaining planning permission before a deadline set by the council.

After the deadline passed the council tried to invoke a buy back clause to regain the site, where an empty factory stands now alongside Duncan Edwards Way.

The DMA's barrister, David Matthias QC told Lords Justices Lewison and Treacy and Lady Justice Gloster that the failure to extend the deadline was 'unfair'.

It would have been 'appropriate' for the council to extend the deadline 'to allow for the delays brought about by the council', he said.

He told the judges the DMA 'have a great and understandable sense of injustice about their treatment at the hands of the council'.

The council contests their argument. "This is, at heart, a dispute between two properly advised parties to a commercial property transaction," their lawyer, Timothy Morshead QC said in written arguments.

It is believed judges will reserve judgement to a later date.

DMA leaders had tried to avert the court hearing by making a £325,000 out of court settlement to the council.

If the settlement offer had been accepted, the group would have retained ownership and the council would have ended its bid to invoke its buy-back clause. But this was unanimously rejected.

Remand for suspect in robbery attempts

A MAN has been remanded in prison on suspicion of trying to carry out four shop robberies across Dudley in little more than two hours. Unemployed Lee Cartwright, from Brompton Drive, Amblecote, was arrested in Tipton.

It is alleged Cartwright was involved in an armed robbery attempt at Premier Stores in Malvern Avenue, Lye, at 7.25pm on September 27, and failed in another robbery at an off licence in Quarry Bank High Street 30 minutes later.

The 24-year-old is also accused of stealing cigarettes from Kingsway Stores in Kingsway, Wollaston, at 9.25pm before a last unsuccessful raid on a chip shop in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, at 10pm.

He has appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court charged with three attempted robberies, one robbery and one count of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He will next appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 26.

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Magnificent send-off for fan of the Wild West

Jim Morris and Dave Parsons drove the horse-drawn hearse for western enthusiast Michael Whittaker's funeral

THERE was a Wild West send off for a cowboy enthusiast who had his coffin carried through town in a horse-drawn carriage during his funeral procession.

Michael Whittaker, a former canal lock keeper and an avid collector of Wild West memorabilia, died from a heart attack aged 76 at his home in Brierley Hill last month.

More than 200 people turned out for his funeral in Brierley Hill on Thursday, many having donned Western outfits to give him a fitting farewell. Staff from the funeral director's also dressed as cowboys as they rode the horse-drawn carriage.

Michael's coffin was carried in to the theme music from The Magnificent Seven and tributes included a floral wreath in the shape of a saddle. The enthusiast's favourite cowboy hat was placed on his coffin.

Some of his vast collection of memorabilia was placed around the altar at St Michael's Church in Bell Street South.

Michael's brother Tony, aged 71, said the funeral had been a fantastic send-off for his older brother.

Mr Whittaker's cowboy hat on his coffin

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Lemur the merrier for new zoo arrivals

New ring-tailed lemur arrivals Itzy and Bitzy with their mother Phoebe at Dudley Zoo

MEET Itzy and Bitzy – the tiny lemur twins born at Dudley Zoo. Keepers thought the names would suit the twin ring-tailed lemurs as they are still small despite being just over two months old.

The youngsters were born on August 21 to parents Phoebe and Frank. They are doing well and getting to know their siblings, twin males Nelly and Kelly, big brother Spock and big sister Freya in the mixed lemur exhibit.

Section leader Pat Stevens said: "Even though they were born two months ago the pair are still very small and the names Itzy and Bitzy seemed to suit them.

Upper primates senior keeper, Sophie Dugmore, said: "The new twins are doing really well and Pheobe is a very good mother. This is her seventh litter and she is very experienced and calm with the youngsters."

The animals live in groups of up to 30 individuals in which the females are dominant; a trait common among lemurs.

To keep warm and reaffirm social bonds, groups will huddle together forming a lemur ball.

Teenager loses his bid to cut sentence

A TEENAGER who hit a man over the head with a bat causing 'catastrophic and life-changing' injuries has failed to get his 18-month sentence overturned.

The 17-year-old, from Dudley, who cannot be named, was given a detention and training order at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 19 this year.

He was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm but acquitted of attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Two others were cleared of all charges.

Mr Trevor Siddle, representing the teenager, told London's Court of Appeal that the conviction was 'unsafe' because the judge had misdirected the jury.

But Lady Justice Sharp said the argument was 'unconvincing' and the judge's direction an 'eminently fair' one. The court heard the victim, 37-year-old Tariq Mahmood, had suffered injuries including skull fractures and brain haemorrhages in the attack.

He needed surgery to remove a large part of his skull and lost the sight in one eye. Mr Mahmood now has problems with his memory, is unable to work and requires round-the-clock care, the appeal court was told. He also has weakness to the right side of his body and suffered permanent disfigurement.

By Lee Watton

The teenager, who is 6ft 2ins tall and weighed 16 stone at the time, said he had 'no recollection' of hitting Mr Mahmood and said it must have been an accident. Mr Mahmood was attacked outside his home in Dudley after going to help his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary, who was fighting with several people.

Mr Siddle argued the sentence was too severe because of a lack of pre-meditation, his client's age and previous good character. Lady Justice Sharp said: "We are satisfied the conviction is safe."

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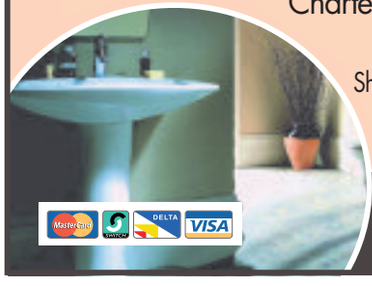

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STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Keeping those ailments at bay

Winter conditions can be seriously bad for our health, especially for people aged 65 or older and people with long-term conditions.

The cold and damp weather, ice, snow and high winds can all aggravate any existing health problems and make us more vulnerable to illnesses that are more common in winter.

Being cold can raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. But there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

Feeling unwell?

Don't wait – get advice from your nearest pharmacist.

Winter can make existing health problems worse. So if you feel like you're coming down with something, even if it's just a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets worse. Act quickly. Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best course of action.

Is your medicine cabinet ready for the winter?

Most common winter ailments, such as a cold, sore throat, cough, sinusitis or middle ear infection, can't be treated with antibiotics. The best thing to do is:

- Rest
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Have at least one hot meal a day to keep your energy levels up
- Talk to your pharmacist for advice on getting any pain relief you need such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Take medicines as directed

If you've been prescribed antibiotics or any other medication, make sure you take them as directed.

Make sure you get your flu jab

The flu virus strikes in winter and it can be far more serious than you think. That's why the flu jab is free if you're aged 65 or over. Just speak to your GP.

How to protect your health in the winter

A MAJOR drive to help people stay well this winter has been launched by Public Health England and NHS England.

The NHS Stay Well This Winter campaign is urging people aged 65 or over, or those with long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease or respiratory illness, to prepare for winter with advice on how to ward off common illnesses.

The campaign is asking the public to:

- If you start to feel unwell, even if it's just a cough or a cold, then get help from your pharmacist quickly before it gets more serious.
- Make sure you get your flu jab if eligible.
- Keep yourself warm – heat your home to least 18C or (65F) if you can.
- Make sure you get your prescription medicines before pharmacies close on Christmas Eve.
- Always take your prescribed medicines as directed.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign will make sure that people have the information they need to help them look after themselves this winter and also to know the best place to go for urgent advice, whether that's their local pharmacy, NHS Choices, NHS phone number 111 or accident and emergency.

Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best treatment

The campaign is urging people to prepare for winter

As in previous years the flu vaccine programme is an important part of this campaign.

The adult flu vaccine will be offered free to those in groups at particular risk of infection and complications from flu including those age 65 or over, those age under 65 with long-term health conditions, pregnant women and carers.

Vaccination

This year, for the first time, all our youngest primary school children will be eligible to receive the free nasal spray vaccine, making this the largest school-based vaccination programme in England involving children in 17,000 schools.

The children's flu vaccine programme will seek to help more than three million two to six year olds, as the programme is extended to children in school Years 1 and 2.

Parents are encouraged to complete consent forms in order to allow immunisation teams to administer the nasal spray flu vaccine to their children.

For those children in areas where the vaccination is not offered through schools, they will be offered the vaccination at their local GP or pharmacy.

NHS

Are you 65 or over?

If you feel like you're getting a cough or a cold, get advice from your pharmacist before it gets more serious.

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

nhs.uk/staywell

Sanjay Ganvir, Pharmacist

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North Street, which could be accessed by an alley from Paternoster Row

Red Lion Street where the Perry family lived

Tony Perry as a young boy playing with his friends in Red Lion Street

All the world's a stage – or at least the back garden at No3!

MEMORY LANE

By Tony Perry

I WAS about four when we moved house to Red Lion Street. In the 1950s this was longer than now. Where the 1960s Telephone Exchange extension stands there was a block of houses, Nos 1 to 4, let to council tenants.

Another block of four, fronted on to an alley, with a cemetery for St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Church and a pair of semi-detached houses.

The alley led, as Paternoster Row, up the hill, to North Street. Past the cemetery was a final block of four houses before the junction with Wadham's Hill, where the Ring Road is now at a lower level. The houses were built in 1926, as shown by date plaques with the Wolverhampton Corporation Coat of Arms.

Our house was No 2, and a high privet hedge above a low brick wall hid a small front garden with tulips, daffodils and nasturtiums. At the end of the tunnel entry you reached the backs of numbers 2 and 3, where the gardens were at a higher level, reached by steps. My best friend in these years was Geoffrey Leo. Although he lived at Wednesfield, his grandparents, Mr & Mrs Wythe, resided at No 3, and his mother or father would bring him to Red Lion Street regularly.

The family's business was making and selling ice cream. Other friends of ours in the street were John Hendley at No 5, Sally Eades at No 6, replaced by a younger Sally Ormerod, Paul Makin at No 7, Lesley at No 10, Jane at No 12, Patrick Greatrix at No 13 (my next best friend after Geoff), and later on Jimmy and David Silcock at No 14.

John, a lifelong Wolves expert and supporter, was to become in later years a folk singer and successful co-ordinator of folk clubs in the area.

Paul was an actor, before becoming a successful scriptwriter of television comedies. He sadly died of a brain tumour at the age of 54. Patrick ran a popular hardware business in Wolverhampton. In the 1950s playing in the street was second nature, and we had the imagination to make up different games, dramas and shows, mimicking the stars seen on television or in films. The raised back garden of No 3 might be a stage, with Geoff's younger brother John using the inside part of a punch-ball as a microphone, belting out Frank Ifield's "I Remember You".

Fever

Play would often take place in the alley, and occasionally stray over the wall into the Catholic Cemetery.

However, any parents hearing us would order us out, with the dire threat that we would "catch the fever" in there. No one ever explained what fever, and how it could be caught. It was another world – a wilderness of overgrown trees and bushes hiding old gravestones – certainly a good place for adventure.

● **From Of the River People by Anthony Perry (Brewin Books, £9.95), available at Ashwoods, Tettenhall Post Office, Archives at Molineux House, Mogul Diamonds, St Peter's Church and other bookshops.**

Red Lion Street in recent times at its corner with Mitre Fold

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No fixative, no surgery and the potential to fix denture stabilisation problems

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

Could this be the answer for you?

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner.

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

The Suction Solution option attracts the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.

"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw.

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

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Denture Clinic

Hundreds motor in for car firm's day

MORE than 250 car enthusiasts visited a Black Country manufacturer as it opened its factory doors for the day.

Westfield Sportscars, based in Gibbons Industrial Park, in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, gave petrol heads the chance to view 20 of the factory's finest assembled cars.

The firm was celebrating after winning a £1 million contract in China to gain a foothold in the huge Asian market.

Special offers on kits and parts were also on display at the open day took place from 9am to 3pm on October 24. The company has been trading since 1983 and has sold more than 12,000 cars worldwide. They produce more than 400 cars a year.

Display

Simon Westwood, sales and marketing manager, said: "We are pretty much an open factory anyway so the event which we run twice a year always attracts a lot of people who are really into their cars.

"It went really well, despite the weather not being as good as we hoped, we still had a good amount of visitors with some of the hardened enthusiasts turning out. At our open days we display cars ranging from the ones we need to build to the ones that are ready to go out.

"We have lots of people arrive in their own Westfield cars too. This year we were working with staff to make a carbon chassis and a lightweight rotary engine, which were also on display."

The firm recently completed three years of negotiations for its British designed and manufactured cars to be distributed in Asia via GD Aero Technology of Shanghai. The move safeguards 20 jobs in Kingswinford.

In June 2009 they became the first niche vehicle manufacturer to be awarded European Small Series Production Status with the new land mark Sport Turbo. The lightweight design chassis of the vehicle saw an influx of orders from around Europe. In 2013 the MegaS2000, which utilises the Honda S2000 engine and gearbox, was also launched.

Westfield also work alongside Birmingham City University students to involve them in their projects.

Company boss Julian Turner, who joined Westfield in 2006, was awarded a honorary doctorate from Birmingham City University in January this year. He previously worked for BAE Systems and Boeing.

Managing director Julian Turner during the open day at Westfield Sportscars in Kingswinford

Black Country hit hard as Caparo shed more than 300 jobs

A TOTAL of 323 workers have lost their jobs after steel giant Caparo shut down three Black Country plants.

Staff at five sites in Darlaston, Oldbury, Dudley, West Bromwich and Cradley Heath were called into meetings with administrators last week to be informed they were being laid off with immediate effect.

Administrators from PwC confirmed that 323 jobs have gone across the five plants, leaving workers devastated. Many of those who have lost their jobs had been with the firm for decades.

Caparo Atlas Fastenings in Heath Road, Darlaston was worst hit with 122 workers made redundant.

A total of 68 jobs have gone at Caparo Precision Tubes in Oldbury, as well as 64 at Caparo Forging Europe in Dudley, 59 at Fairbright Wire in West Bromwich and 10 at the Cradley Heath CMT Engineering plant.

The Darlaston, Dudley and West Bromwich sites were closed with immediate effect.

The business, which was the biggest manufacturing company in the Black Country with 1,700 workers across 20 sites, was put into administration earlier this month.

Plants in Hartlepool and Tredagar have also closed as part of a total of 452 redundancies.

Matt Hammond, PwC partner and lead administrator said: "It is with regret that we have made these decisions, but the commercial prospects of the affected businesses render them unviable."

He added that more than 1,200 staff remain employed in Caparo Industries. "They continue to work and be paid as normal," he said.

Motorbiker died after crash with a minibus

A MOTORCYCLIST from the Black Country died in a crash with a minibus after buying a bike against his wife's wishes, an inquest heard.

Nigel Christopher Thompson died of multiple injuries after the smash on the A489 between Kerry and Sarn, near Newtown, on August 2.

The 49-year-old from Quarry Bank, who had been a keen motorcyclist in his youth, gave up biking while his children were young and only bought the Kawasaki Z100 in March.

By Emma Walker

His wife Nicola told an inquest at Brecon Court via a statement, that she had not been happy about him getting a new bike and even said to him she would become 'a biker widow'.

But she said it made him happy, she remembered seeing his face when he bought it and his daughters bought him the biking leathers.

Stephen Evans was driving a Dial-a-Ride minibus and was accompanied by Carol Clayton and Ross Embrey on a trip to a fun day at Churchstoke, when the accident happened.

Braked

He said as he approached a right hand bend near Penygelly Mill he saw a motorcyclist travelling towards him on his side of the road.

He said it looked as though the bike was out of control as it was upright and it was weaving from side to side and wobbling around. Mr Evans said there was another motorcyclist travelling behind on the correct side of the road.

He said he turned the steering wheel and braked hard but he said he knew there was going to be a crash.

"The last time I recall seeing the motorcyclist he was raising his hand," he said.

"I do not know why the hand was raised, I do not know if he was apologising because he knew what was going to happen," said Mr Evans. After the crash he got out of the minibus, called the emergency services and found a helmet.

Biker Darren Groves had been in a group of motorcyclists with Mr Thompson and was travelling behind him at the time.

He said the group would often go for a ride on a Sunday if the weather was good and they had travelled from the West Midlands to Craven Arms and were heading for Barmouth.

He told the inquest that at the bend Mr Thompson had tipped the bike into the bend, started to drift and the brake light came on, smoke came from the rear wheel, the bike sat up and he went across the road into the incorrect carriageway.

"Nigel was on the floor and the bike was between his legs and he was sliding along the floor and the bike slid into the path of the minibus," he said.

He said he stopped and went to look for his friend in the hedgerow, when he found Mr Thompson's bike in the hedge he looked at the bus and realised his friend must be underneath it.

Dyfed Powys Police collision investigator Constable Garry Rees said there were no defects on the road or with either vehicle that may have caused the collision.

Powys coroner Andrew Barkley said Mr Evans could not have done anything else.

He said the cause of the death seemed to have been driver error.

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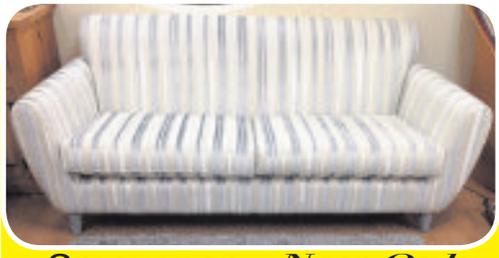

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

New Year in Chester

Three days departing December 30

PRICE FROM £179

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to Liverpool
- Full day in Chester
- New Year's Eve party
- Optional visit to Chester Zoo
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

New Year in Windsor and London

Two days departing December 31

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- New Year's Eve party
- Visit to Windsor
- Free time in London for the Lord Mayor's New Year's Day Parade
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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The Nutcracker on Ice at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing December 28

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
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- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Cirque du Soleil Amaluna at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing February 6, 2016

PRICE FROM £159

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Category 3 ticket for Amaluna at the Royal Albert Hall (ugrades offered)
- Free time in London's West End
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings

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- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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LONDON THEATRE BREAKS

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is King in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performances has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. Omega Holidays has a number of options from which to choose, simply select your show and ticket price band and how you want to travel.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £149.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

New Year Theatre

Three days departing December 30

PRICE FROM £259.95

See in the New Year in style with this theatre break to London's glittering West End.

London is known the world over for its spectacular sights, fabulous West End Shows and fantastic shopping – from the market stalls at Covent Garden to the bustling fashion stores of Oxford Street and luxury department stores of Harrods and Fortnum & Mason. The city is packed with things to see and do, and during the festive season it truly sparkles.

This special break starts with a trip into theatreland to see one of the many shows on offer: Beautiful, Billy Elliot, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Elf the Musical, Lion King, Jersey Boys, Kinky Boots, Les Mis, Mamma Mia!, Phantom of the Opera, War Horse and Wicked.

As the countdown to the New Year celebrations begin, soak up the atmosphere in the capital before dining in the hotel and dancing the night away until the midnight chimes herald the start of 2016. The following day, after a leisurely breakfast, head back into central London for the traditional New Year's Day parade and see 10,000 performers – it's a spectacular sight.

Price includes:

- Return coach travel
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Dinner and disco on New Year's Eve
- Standard ticket from a choice of shows (upgrades offered)
- Excursion into central London to see the New Year's Day Parade
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Only Josh-ing for great fun in Brum

Josh Widdicombe, Town Hall, Birmingham

MATTERS conspired against us in getting to the second city for the start of this gig. Congestion on the roads, parking problems – and all on a Sunday night. So we were in need of some comic relief when we finally arrived.

Thanks goodness Josh Widdicombe provided it.

Mind you, when I told my other half we had tickets for a curly-haired entertainer in Birmingham that night, she was expecting to see Jess Glynne, who was performing elsewhere in the city.

She wasn't so hard on herself when she realised it was the Devonian funnyman.

He's been away from the touring scene for a while, but hasn't been short of television and radio work. And he wasn't bereft of material either.

In a show called What Do I Do Now? he was able to reveal some of the things that annoyed him, like his schooldays and a fear of flying.

He also gave his take on why James Bond doesn't drink real ale.

Widdicombe even revealed he has his own sitcom coming up, called, inspiringly, Josh, which he insists he was requested to mention to his audience. It was all good fun, even if the two behind us probably found it a bit too funny.

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS

Babajack's big bundle of blues

Babajack
Robin 2, Bilston

WHEN you see the way Babajack let rip as they did in the Bilston venue you realise how they became the British Blues Award winners.

Singer Becky Tate is sexy, sassy and a real live wire with her hips swaying and her wild auburn hair swishing madly about as she plays the cajon and sings. On top of that she has a really cool voice.

She was on stage with drummer Tosh Murase, bass guitarist Adam Bertenshaw and the incredibly blues infused dude, Trevor Steger on cigar box guitar and harmonica.

The only disappointing part was there were only about 30 people there to enjoy the gig, but enjoy it they did.

They opened with a thumping version of The Money's All Gone from their Rooster album with Murase hammering out the beat before Steger's gobiron came in like a steam train. Babajack are definitely a band best enjoyed live.

Danny Farragher

Seth Lakeman on stage at the Robin2, Wolverhampton. *Pic Danny Farragher*

Lakeman shows how many strings there are to his bow

Seth Lakeman
Robin 2, Bilston

SETH Lakeman walked into a seriously warm welcome from the fans packed into Robin2.

Joined on stage by his fellow Full English band member Ben Nicholls, drummer Cormac Byrne and guitarist and banjo player Jack Rutter Lakeman started as he meant to go on, full of energy.

As usual Lakeman came with a bucket load of instruments, none of which went to waste.

He kicked off with the high energy Courier from his latest album,Word of Mouth, his fiddle from the start doing 20 to the dozen. Lakeman mixed up his set, trawling to resurrect earlier songs.

This was followed by Take No Rogues from his Freedom Fields album.

He then pulled out a broadside from Frank Kidson, Stand By Your Guns before going into the incredibly emotive Shores of Normandy, written by Jim Radford for the anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Lakeman put on a show full of energyand gave the crowd what they love, watching him hammer his fiddle like he was trying to start a fire.

Danny Farragher

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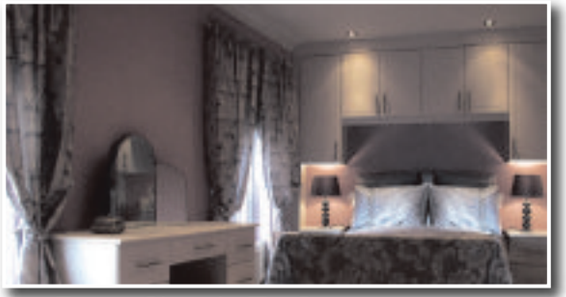

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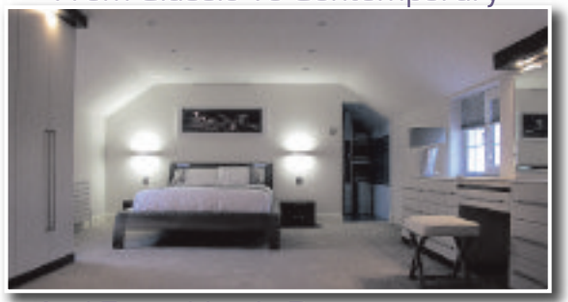

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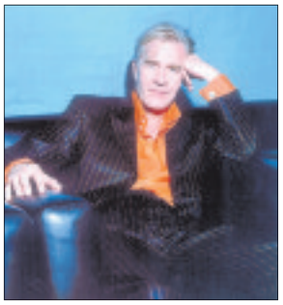
ABC



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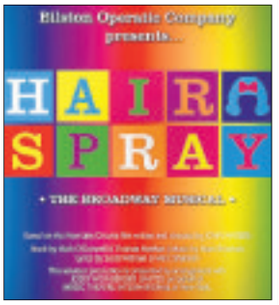

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Antarctic Monkeys: Arctic Monkeys Tribute
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Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Dirty DC: AC/DC Tribute
Sat at 12am, £10
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Jah Wobble's Invaders Of The Heart
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Secret Affair
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Titus Andronicus
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Nell Bryden
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LA Priest
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The Coronas
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The Bootleg Sixties
Tue at 8pm, £19.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
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Eagles Of Death Metal
Fri at 6pm, £18.50
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Julia Holter
Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £13
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Happy Mondays
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Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

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Thu at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £25 - £46
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Bach Doubled With Tamsin Waley-Cohen And David Le Page
Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm, £8.50 - £23.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

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Katie Stillman & Simon Lane: Bromsgrove Concerts 2015/16
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Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

CBSO 2015-16 - A Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra
Sun at 2.30pm, £10
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo
Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2pm - 4.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £34.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Shakespeare Schools Festival
Mon at 7pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Rock' N 'Roll To Broadway
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Les Miserables: A West Bromwich Operatic Society
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Brummegem Pals
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

'Allo 'Allo
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Lord Of The Flies
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Hairspray: Bilston Operatic Company
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £19
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Brave New World
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £10.50 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Jesus Christ Superstar
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2pm - 5pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £20 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story
Fri at 8pm, £28.80
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Nina Conti: In Your Face
Wed at 8pm, £18.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse: Legends!
Sat at 7.30pm, £32.50 - £41.25
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Stephen K Amos: The Laughter Master
Wed at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jim Davidson: Charlton Nil
Sun at 7.30pm,
£23.50 - £26.40
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Tue at 7.30pm,
£23.50 - £26.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Thu at 7.30pm,
£23.50 - £26.40
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Festival Of The Spoken Nerd: Just For Graphs
Thu at 8pm, £13 - £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business
Fri at 8pm, £25
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Coleridge trail left Ange in Esteesee

By Danny Farragher

WE'RE all guilty of missing the history on our doorstep.

Often other people point out what's interesting or historic about what we pass by every day.

This happened to folk singer Ange Hardy in a spectacular way.

What is remarkable is not just that she was unaware of one of world's most famous romantic poets, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, literally being under her nose but also the way she addressed the shortfall in her knowledge.

Hardy lives in a little village just outside Watchet, Somerset which is about half way along The Coleridge Way, a trail the poet famed for such epics as The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan walked. She however was blissfully unaware of the significance of the route.

"I think having left school really early and my past of running away and being out of the education circles from about 13 onwards I was just never in the right place or with the right people to learn about Coleridge.

"I didn't even realise Coleridge was a he, I thought it was just the name of the walk. So I really had no idea at all."

The idea then of basing her new album Esteesee – which is how the poet liked to sign himself, on him and his works seem even more bizarre.

"My husband came up with the idea. He started talking about Coleridge and said I should write a song about him."

The idea then formed into an entire album in Hardy's mind, "It was a huge risk," she admits. What lay ahead for the acclaimed singer/songwriter was a massive cramming session.

"I spent about two weeks with my head buried in books from morning to night and listening to readings. Then I just pieced together all the bits that inspired me." Ange Hardy is performing songs from Esteesee at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham on Monday November 9. The show starts 8pm and tickets are £9 in advance or £11 on the night. Visit www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk and www.angehardy.com

Ange Hardy will be performing her new album in Birmingham

Fireworks promised

"They're the genuine article"

IT promises to be an explosive bonfire night in Bilston tonight as rock band Snakecharmer provide the fireworks.

The supergroup, made up of former members from the likes of Whitesnake, Wishbone Ash and Magnum, perform at the Robin 2 in Mount Pleasant.

The band is made up of six of the UK's most highly-esteemed and experienced rock musicians.

Original Whitesnake guitarist Micky Moody and bandmate, bassist Neil Murray, teamed up with Laurie Wisefield (Wishbone Ash guitarist), Thunder and Magnum drummer Harry James (Thunder, Magnum), Adam Wakeman, who played keyboards and acoustic guitar for Ozzy Osbourne) and Black Sabbath and Heartland vocalist Chris Ousey.

They perform classic twin-guitar based rock. A spokesman for the band said: "With a live set comprising material from their critically-acclaimed Snakecharmer album, coupled with such Whitesnake classics as Ready And Willing, Fool For Your Loving, Take Me With You, Walking In The Shadow Of The Blues and Here I Go Again, Snakecharmer is the genuine article."

Snakecharmer are currently writing for the follow up to their self-titled debut album. Tonight's concert is the only chance to see the supergroup locally as they also perform in Sheffield, Glasgow, Newcastle, London and Cardiff during the nine-date tour. Call 0844 477 2000.

Reid all about it as twins top bill

TWIN brothers Craig and Charlie Reid will have Birmingham rocking when they perform at the New Alexandra Theatre this weekend.

The duo have tasted huge success around the globe with the likes of Letter From America, Sunshine on Leith and (I'm Gonna Be) 500 Miles, enjoying gold and platinum singles and albums in UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the process. They perform on Sunday (November 8).

The second city also plays host to 80s legends ABC the following evening at the Symphony Hall.

The Institute hosts Twenty One Pilots on Monday and Nell Bryden the next night.

Funnyman Kevin bridges the gap

IT'S comedy central in Birmingham this week as a number of top acts perform.

Scottish funnyman Kevin Bridges sets the ball rolling with his brand new show, A Whole Different Story, at the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Also on at the Barclaycard Arena, on Saturday, will be Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse.

Elsewhere in the city, Bridges will vie for top billing with Jimmy Carr tomorrow night as he plays the Symphony Hall.

He will be followed by ventriloquist Nina Conti who is at the Town Hall on November 11.

When comedy and ballet mix

THE boys are back in town… in size 12 pointe shoes. Hurtling through the classical ballet repertoire with their inimitable blend of skill, grace and wit, Les Ballet Trockaderos de Monte carol perform at Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Enjoy show-stopping Swan Lake (Act II), Merce Cunningham-inspired Patterns in Space, Go For Barocco, a satire on Balanchine's choreography, and the delightful Don Quixote on Tuesday and Wednesday (November 10 and 11.

For the Tuesday show there is a chance to attend a post-show question and answer session given by troupe members.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, November 5, 2015

The traditional chicken red curry is the county's best

Mini money bags – the duck dim sum

The chicken satay was a favourable way to start the feast

Fine dining – raise a glass to quality Thai food

Chef Suree's a winner as King and Thai retains its number one crown

THAI cook Suree Coates is one of Shropshire's most decorated chefs, having been named the UK Thai Chef of the Year a couple of years back and then bettering that by being crowned the Asian Chef of the Year.

More recently, her qualities have been recognised by The Good Food Guide, where inclusion is hard to come by; in Shropshire, only seven restaurants feature.

The King & Thai in Broseley is listed in that as a Local Gem and deserving of inclusion. Suree is one of the county's best. Arguably her greatest ability is to fashion exciting and exotic flavours that are deep, rich and rewarding.

Her freshly-made sauces and pastes are heavenly. She learned how to make them while growing up in her native Thailand,

By Andy Richardson

where she used a pestle and mortar to combine freshly-picked herbs and aromats. She uses the same techniques to this day – and it shows. Suree offers dishes that offer the same flavours that you'd find in downtown Phitsanulok. Her flavours are vibrant and subtle; explosive and entertaining. She's a crackerjack cook who has as good an understanding of Asian seasonings as any chef in the county.

My friend and I have eaten at The King & Thai frequently. For this critic's shilling, it remains the county's number one; with Ludlow's Chang Thai Bar and Shrewsbury's recently-opened Aroi Thai not far behind. Suree moves ahead of her good-but-not-better rivals on most fronts: principally presentation, innovation and flavour.

When we arrived, the helpful and bubbly waitress showed us through to the dining room. It was festooned with Buddhas, colourful photographs and other Thai ephemera. The menu featured the normal Thai classics in addition to numerous specials. Starters include a duck dim sum with plum sauce. Alongside that was a Thai custard, served in a mini pumpkin, with prawns.

My friend opted for the duck dim sum while I ordered chicken satay. Both were delicious. The dim sum – some crunchy-fried and some soft-and-steamed – were light and boldly seasoned. The plum sauce was swirled concentrically across the plate and provided a balanced accompaniment.

The satay was brilliant. My friend and I swapped dim sum for satay in an impromptu game of Thai mix'n'match.

We thought long and hard about the daily specials before ordering the county's best Thai red curry and the county's best Thai green curry. Neither disappointed. Both oozed subtle and delicate flavour. The chicken and vegetables that were contained had been lightly cooked while the presentation was as pretty as a picture.

Rather than request dessert, we asked the chef to choose. She provided a tasting platter, including a playful coconut panna cotta, an indulgent chocolatey, fudgey cube that was dense, rich and satisfying and more. The only underwhelming element was a deep-fried ice cream sandwich.

Suree deserves all credit for pushing the envelope when it comes to Thai cuisine. Unlike most local, neighbourhood chefs, she creates imaginative dishes, daring to combine different ingredients to fashion something new.

Her presentation is delightful, her flavours exemplary and there's not a finer Thai restaurant in the region.

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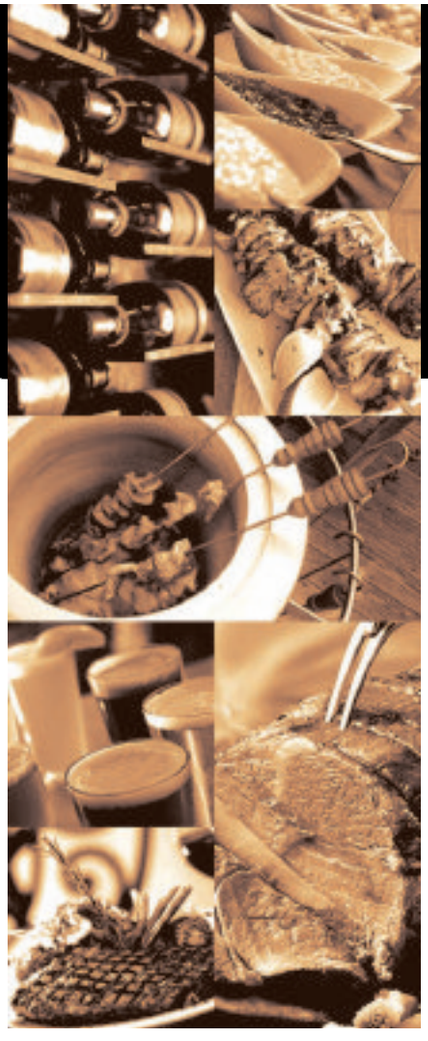

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CHOICE

Gregory Porter

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015 (BBC1, 9pm)

Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of dancing action as the twinkle-toed celebrities compete to stay out of the bottom two – and hopefully avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple.

8.00 Doctor Who. In the second part of the adventure which started last week, the Zygons have taken over, and the future of Earth is sealed in a box back in Unit's archive. But with the military organisation under the shapeshifting aliens' control and Clara missing, the Doctor and Osgood find themselves fugitives in a city where no one can be trusted. But even if the Time Lord can stop a war, can he also save his friends? Peter Capaldi stars as the time-travelling boffin, with Jenna Coleman as his trusty sidekick and Ingrid Oliver as Unit advisor Osgood, seemingly back from the dead.

8.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin is on hand to provide news of the all-important winning numbers.

9.00 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015. Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.40 BBC News; Weather.

11.00 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update.

12.25 The Apprentice. (R) **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: The Moon Is Blue. (1953) **7.55 Film:** The Captive Heart. (1946) **9.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.30** The Wonder of Animals. **11.00** Animal SOS. (R) **11.30** Animal SOS. (R) **12.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.45** My Life on a Plate. (R) **1.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **2.00 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. Sara Cox invites 10 home pottery enthusiasts to gather in Stoke-on-Trent, where they take part in a competitive throwing contest to determine which of them should be named Top Potter. Through a series of 18 challenges, taking place over the course of 35 days, the competitors will be judged on their craft skills and creativity by ceramic artist Kate Malone and master potter Keith Brymer Jones. The competition gets under way as the amateurs take part in a four-day assignment, in which they must produce a set of stackable kitchen bowls from lumps of earthenware clay. They also face a Spot Test, in which they must attach handles to 20 mugs within a strict time limit, and a Throw Down, where the judges ask them to make as many egg-cups as they can within 20 minutes. (R)

7.30 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. The chef continues his journey through Croatia and savours the native oysters of Ston, before crossing the border into Albania, where he is joined by his son Jack. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Corporal Jones finds himself cast adrift during an exercise pitting Mainwaring and his home-front heroes against their arch-rival Captain Square. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Host Stephen Fry invites Noel Fielding, Rhod Gilbert and Cariad Lloyd to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders through miscellaneous M-themed matters.

9.45 Film: Song for Marion. (2012) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Terence Stamp, Gemma Arterton and Christopher Eccleston.

11.15 The Many Faces of Richard Wilson. (R)

12.15 Film: Mad City. (1997) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** Downton Abbey. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.45** Doc Martin. (R) **3.45 Film:** Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Rory Bremner, Laura Tobin, Deborah Meaden and Alan Titchmarsh answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity.

8.00 The X Factor. The remaining acts line up for the second stage of the nerve-racking live shows. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the competitors receive another chance to demonstrate their talent in the hopes of claiming a place in the live final later this year. Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora are on hand to appraise the would-be stars, and tomorrow's show will see yet another act eliminated following a tense sing-off.

10.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Sheridan Smith about her role in the stage revival of musical Funny Girl, and is also joined by Joan Collins, Danny DeVito and Ariana Grande.

11.25 ITV News; Weather.

11.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories. Raquel Welch, most famous for her portrayal of the bikini-clad cave girl in the 1966 film One Million Years BC, reflects on her life and career. (R)

11.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Andrew Flintoff. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster, Aintree and Wincanton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Admin worker Jessica Carroll hosts the final party in Lincolnshire. Despite a lack of culinary knowledge, she hopes her Chinese meal and unusual pet will impress the guests. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets Mark Horton, who has bought the derelict shell of an 18th-century folly called Bath Lodge in Ormskirk, near Liverpool, with the dream of converting it himself. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Rob Hodgson and Kay Ralph, who plan to build a glass-fronted house on a crumbling clifftop in Gwynedd, inspired by the villas of California. (R)

9.00 Prison Night. British inmates are given a chance to determine just how authentic some of the world's most popular big-screen depictions of life behind bars really are. A countdown of celebrated prison dramas, thrillers and comedies, as voted for by convicts serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure, reveal which films most accurately convey the realities of confinement. Plus, lifers, great escapees, Brits banged up abroad and prison bosses also provide their perspective on the plausibility of some of the cell-based hijinks devoured by cinema-goers over the ages.

10.35 TFI Friday. Elton John, Julianne Moore, Stanley Tucci, the Maccabees and the Vamps join host Chris Evans for music and chat, with stunts and skits. (R)

11.40 Film: Lockout. (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Guy Pearce.

1.25 Fargo. (R) **2.20** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.25 Film:** All I Want For Christmas. (2013) Festive fantasy, starring Melissa Sagemiller. **3.05 Film:** A Nanny for Christmas. (2010) Romantic comedy, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Richard Ruccolo. **4.50 Film:** Mistletoe Over Manhattan. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Film: Operation Crossbow. (1965) Three Allied engineers parachute into occupied Holland on a mission to infiltrate and destroy a German missile base. The trio team up with the local resistance, but two of the men are unaware the third is a Nazi agent. Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard, Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard, Tom Courtenay and John Mills.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Leeds United, Nottingham Forest v Derby County, and Hull City v Middlesbrough. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.15 Greatest Comedy Movies – Ever! Special programme celebrating the greatest comedy films ever made, featuring recollections and revelations from stars on both sides of the camera.

11.50 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crooks tracking down a top-secret microchip. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder.

1.35 The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley investigates mobile phone networks, while Jason Bradbury and Amy Williams look into cutting-edge technology for hairdressers and models. (R) **2.25** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00** Gift of Life. A former Merchant Navy sailor with a severe heart condition awaits a transplant. Last in the series. **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15** Top Gear **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News **10.15 Film:** Halloween: Resurrection (2002) **11.45** Family Guy **1.55** Together **2.25** Rent a Cop **2.55** Asian Provocateur **3.25** The Fear **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Arne Dahl: Afterquake – Part One **10.00** Arne Dahl: Afterquake – Part Two **11.00** Ultimate Covers at the BBC **12.00** Better Than The Original: The Joy of the Cover Version **1.00** Sings Dylan 2 **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.35** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.35** Close

ITV2

12.10 The Xtra Factor **1.10** Tricked **2.10** Catchphrase **2.50** You've Been Framed! **3.20 Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **5.15 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.10 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **9.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **11.10** Celebrity Juice **11.55** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.55** Release the Hounds **1.50** Tricked **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.00 Rosemary & Thyme **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55 Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.35 The Professionals **1.40** Pawn Stars **3.25** Storage Wars **4.20** Storage Wars: New York **6.20 Film:** Red River (1948) **9.00 Film:** Tremors (1989) **11.00 Film:** Raw Deal (1986) **1.10** The Big Fish Off **2.10** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00 Film:** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** Made in Chelsea **3.00 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.35** The Inbetweeners **1.40** The IT Crowd **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** 2 Broke Girls **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.35** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Five Children and It (2004) **2.45** Magic in the Water (1995) **4.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Sorority Row (2009) **1.10** The Social Network (2010) **3.35** Close

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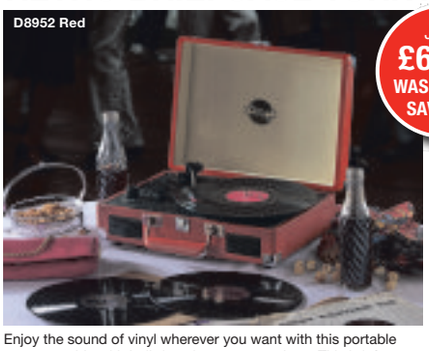

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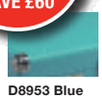

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Enjoy the sound of vinyl wherever you want with this portable retro turntable with built-in twin stereo speakers. This briefcase-styled music player also allows you to take your favourite vinyl records and convert them to digital files to help preserve your complete music collection forever. The turntable will play 33s, 45s and 78s and this brilliantly designed piece of equipment is sure to add effortless style to whatever room it is placed in. It comes with Audacity software and a USB cable to give you everything you need to transfer your records to your computer. Includes a headphone socket, aux-in and line-out socket. Dimensions: 35.5 x 28 x 12.5. Mains operated.

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CHOICE

Michelle Dockery

Downton Abbey (ITV, 9pm)
Bertie's circumstances change suddenly, leaving Edith uncertain whether to risk telling him the truth or keep her past a secret at all costs. Mary wonders if she can ever make peace with her sister as hostilities escalate, Spratt shows some hidden talents and Molesley's first day as a teacher does not go according to plan. Mrs Patmore's bed and breakfast attracts unwanted attention, leaving her in need of the Crawleys' help. The last episode of the final series, although the Crawleys will return one last time for a Christmas special. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.25** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.20** Regional Programme. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Lifeline. **1.55** FA Cup Final Score. An FA Cup edition of the football results and report show. **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** The People Remember. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Reports on rural issues in Cambridgeshire. Matt Baker reveals how students have long had an impact on rural affairs, Joe Crowley finds out about the restoration of the Great Fen and the recovery of a crashed spitfire, Ellie Harrison uncovers stories about the Peak District from the Second World War, and Adam Henson meets JB Gill of pop group JLS, who is running a turkey farm. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. Seal provides the music and the professionals perform a Remembrance Day routine.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second programme this year from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, and discovers the story of a length of tree that ended up inside a Lancaster bomber. Treasures brought in to be valued include a harp that survived the French Revolution, a curious wooden item with an unexpected purpose, a diamond brooch found hidden inside a barometer and a pair of Second World War propaganda posters printed on hessian sacking.

9.00 The Hunt. A look at how predators living in the Arctic have to constantly adapt their hunting strategies as the environment around them radically changes.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa v Manchester City and Liverpool v Crystal Palace.

11.45 Citizen Khan. (R)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

7.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **8.00** Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** FA Cup Final Score. The FA Cup edition of the football results and report show continues. **4.15** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph.

6.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the weekend's first-round matches, as the 20 non-league teams to progress through the qualifying rounds competed alongside the 48 League One and League Two clubs. Standout ties in this opening round included Notts County's trip to Salford City – part-owned by former Manchester United stars Gary and Phil Neville, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt. Elsewhere, part-timers Didcot Town hosted Exeter City, and 2013 winners Wigan Athletic took the short trip to face League One rivals Bury.

8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. The semi-final is held in Canada, where the anglers go searching for Pacific salmon, bull trout and white sturgeon and discover how fish migrations drive the country's ecosystem.

9.00 Film: Looper. (2012) In the future, a crime syndicate uses time travel to dispose of people without trace, sending them back 30 years to be killed by hitmen. One of the assassins employed by the Mob finds his latest target is himself as an older man, and both versions go on the run as they try to change the course of history. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

10.50 Family Guy. Peter befriends a man named Mahmoud while recovering from a sky-diving accident in hospital, but Quagmire and Joe are immediately suspicious of this charismatic newcomer.

11.10 Family Guy. Mayor West becomes the prime suspect when a murder is committed at his mansion – but once his trial begins, one of the jurors begins to doubt his guilt.

11.30 Top Coppers.

12.00 Film: Return from the River Kwai. (1988) **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories; Share a Story. **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **8.30** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson.

6.40 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.50 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Robert uses some of his grandfather's potions to cure himself of his alter ego, whom he is desperate to keep secret from Lily, and also discovers his grandmother may still be alive.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of last night's vote, before the lowest scoring acts compete in a sing-off to determine which of them will leave the competition.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Bertie's circumstances change suddenly, leaving Edith uncertain whether to risk telling him the truth or keep her past a secret at all costs. Mary wonders if she can ever make peace with her sister as hostilities escalate, Spratt shows some hidden talents and Molesley's first day as a teacher does not go according to plan. Mrs Patmore's bed and breakfast attracts unwanted attention, leaving her in need of the Crawleys' help. The last episode of the final series, although the Crawleys will return one last time for a Christmas special. Last in the series.

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Off Their Rockers. A foul-mouthed nun runs amok, Seb gets advice on attending a naturist wedding and Dave gives a member of the public his lucky pants. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the fourth round of fixtures, which included Northampton Saints v Saracens.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** The Simpsons. (R) **9.00** The Simpsons. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.50** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** The Simpsons. **4.50 Film:** The Simpsons Movie. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Restoring Britain's Landmarks. Alastair Dick-Cleland visits the engine house at Danescombe, where a refurbishment is underway, while John Evetts searches for an antique telescope to complete the tower at Belmont House in Lyme Regis. Plus, Anna Keay explores the story behind the Victorian star gazer Dr Bangay. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go to Ireland and travel along the Shannon Erne Waterway, a canal linking the North to the South. Along the way, they try some traditional dancing and folk singing, visit historic sites including Crom Castle and Bloody Pass, and meet a genealogist with a fascinating story to tell. Last in the series.

9.00 Homeland. The Hacktivists plans gather steam, as Quinn covers for Carrie as Dar and Allison assess the damage. Thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives. Claire Danes stars.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.05 Film: The American. (2010) A hitman lies low in an Italian village after a brush with death, and tempts fate by pursuing a relationship with a local woman. Thriller, with George Clooney and Violante Placido.

1.00 Grand Designs Australia. **1.55** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.40** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.00** 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.35 Film:** The Town Christmas Forgot. (2010) **1.20 Film:** The Christmas Bunny. (2010) Family drama, starring Sophie Bolen. **3.15 Film:** Defending Santa. (2013) Premiere. Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10 Film:** Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner.

8.05 Impractical Jokers US. New series. The guys are challenged to sell anti-ageing products by rubbing as much lotion as possible onto a stranger's body. They also conduct an unusual survey and must try to steal things from people's shopping carts. Finally, one of the group has to sing an improvised song at a baseball match, but is only given the title when he steps onto the field.

8.35 Impractical Jokers US. The guys act as oddball apartment dwellers looking for room-mates, and jump the queue for Broadway show tickets.

9.00 Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protege, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

10.55 Film: Highlander. (1986) Immortal warriors must fight each other in duels to the death through the centuries, until only one survives. Fantasy action adventure, with Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Lives. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00 Film:** Blades of Glory (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.40** Family Guy **1.00** Rent a Cop **1.30** Together **2.00** Is This Rape? Sex on Trial **3.00** Asian Provocateur **3.30** The Fear **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World **8.00** Dames of Classic Drama at the BBC **9.00** In Conversation **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **11.30** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **12.30** Sings Dylan **1.10** James May at the Edge of Space **1.40** Madness in the Desert: Paris to Dakar Rally **2.40** In Conversation **3.40** Close

ITV2
2.00 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **3.00 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **4.55 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **6.40 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **12.10** Viral Tap **12.55** Reality Bites **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.05** Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **2.15** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.30 Jane Eyre **4.45** Midsomer Murders **6.50** Sunday Night at the Palladium **7.55** Wycliffe **9.00** Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark **10.30** Birds of a Feather **11.00 Film:** Out of Sight (1998) **1.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.00** Doctor at Large **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.25 Pawn Stars **2.15** The Car Chasers **3.20 Film:** Red River (1948) **6.00** British Touring Car Championship **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Eraser (1996) **11.20 Film:** The Wicker Man (1973) **1.15** Whisker Wars **2.10** I Want That Car **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
2.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **10.05** The Inbetweeners **11.15** The IT Crowd **12.15** First Dates **1.15** Drifters **1.50** Chewing Gum **2.25** Tattoos After Dark **3.15** Hollyoaks

Film4
1.00 Catch That Kid (2004) **2.45** Von Ryan's Express (1965) **5.00** Casper (1995) **7.00** St Trinian's (2007) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** Stand Up Guys (2012) **1.00** Vanilla Sky (2001) **3.45** Close

DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S

Winter Auction

at The Garden Room of Hogarth's Stone Manor Hotel, Stone, Nr Kidderminster on Tuesday 10th November 2015 6pm

phipps and pritchard with McCartneys

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Vale Road, Stourport DY13 8YJ

The Old Library has approval for change of use to residential under application number 14/3059/PNRES dated 4 November, 2014 and plans are drawn for a mews style development of three 2-bedroom bungalows each with parking. Alternatively the property still represents a valuable stand alone turn-key investment option in its existing fully functional use - namely high profile spacious offices! Freehold.

Guide Price £200,000 - £250,000

Thicknall Lane, Stourbridge DY9 0HP

A rare and most valuable piece of Greenbelt amenity land with a Registered Title, extending to about .42 of an acre with a frontage to Thicknall Lane in the revered village of Clent. Possible long term 'hope value' for future development. Vacant possession upon completion.

Guide Price £50,000 - £75,000

Chaucer Crescent, K'minster DY10 3XF

Located overlooking open fields to the rear, a three bedroom semi-detached house requiring refitting/refurbishment to current tastes. Porch. Through Living Room/Dining Room. Kitchen. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Driveway & Garage. Excellent potential. EPC E

Guide Price £120,000 - £130,000

Poplar Rd, Kidderminster DY11 6ND

A substantially traditionally built semi-detached house. Hall. Living Room. Dining Kitchen. Scullery. Rear Verandah/Porch with cloakroom/w.c. off. Two Bedrooms. Bathroom. Garage to side. Good sized Gardens. Driveway/off-street parking to front. Requires refitting/refurbishment to current tastes. Immense potential. Suit investor/owner occupier etc. EPC E

Guide Price £80,000 - £95,000

Blackwell St Kidderminster DY10 2EE

Freehold retail shop in busy trading position with upper floor accommodation plus brick outbuilding - the whole requiring complete refurbishment. Sales area, kitchenette, 2 rooms to the first floor, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. EPC F

Guide Price £30,000 - £50,000

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Hangover, ITV, 9pm
Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis. (2009)

TUESDAY
The Mission, BBC1, 11.55pm
The missionary work of Jesuit priests in 18th-century Brazil is threatened by the activities of unscrupulous colonial merchants and rival factions within the Church, leading to a series of tense confrontations which not only endanger their lives but also their faith. Historical drama, starring Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons, Cherie Lunghi and Ray McAnally. (1986)

The Insider, Wednesday, Channel 4, 12.30am

WEDNESDAY
The Insider, Channel 4, 12.30am
A scientist is fired from his job with a tobacco company, and agrees to expose his former employers' secrets to a journalist – including the allegation that the company had deliberately increased the addictive quality of cigarettes. Michael Mann's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe. (1999)

THURSDAY
Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Channel 5, 10pm
An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner and Alan Rickman. (1991)

FRIDAY
Cross of Iron, BBC2, 12.45am
A German sergeant on the Russian front in 1943 is sickened by an officer who risks men's lives for his own glory. Sam Peckinpah's Second World War drama, starring James Coburn, Maximilian Schell, James Mason and David Warner. (1977)

The stars shine brightly in aid of a good cause

How to transform yourself from smooth-talking professional to dribbling idiot in one easy move – host a live TV show.

Those watching at home may think standing in front of a camera and reading an autocue is easy, but for presenters, it can be a living nightmare - especially if something goes wrong and they're left to fill in 'dead air'.

Arguably the biggest and most difficult live TV event of the year is Children in Need, thanks in no small part to the fact it lasts for such a long time. What's more, this year it's being broadcast on Friday 13th – surely a recipe for disaster if ever there was one?

Well, maybe not. After all, it's in the safe hands of Terry Wogan, who seems to thrive on such occasions. He will be joined for the first part of the evening by Tess Daly, who is no stranger to live TV, having co-hosted Strictly Come Dancing with, initially, Bruce Forsyth and latterly with Claudia Winkleman, for the past 11 years. But even she could learn a thing or two from Sir Terry who makes the whole process seem completely effortless – perhaps it's because he's so affable and always does his best to make those appearing in the studio at their ease.

"I'm not a confrontational interviewer," explains Wogan. "It would be easy to be abrasive, but nobody would want to come on the show. Sometimes an interview I think didn't go well was actually very good, and vice versa. You're not always the best judge yourself."

Despite retiring from his radio show, Terry is as busy as ever, but he claims he'll always have time for this fundraiser.

"It is always a privilege and pleasure, the highest point of my year, to present BBC Children in Need," he says. "This year we are hoping the great British public will give us even more. We've certainly got a fantastic show line-up this year. I know I say that every year but this year really is special."

Although the BBC's first Children's Appeal arrived in 1927, the first telethon version didn't appear on our screens until in 1980, and the aim each year is to beat the previous total. Seeing as a record £32, 620, 469 was raised on the night in 2014, the fundraisers have a tough task ahead of them, but hopefully the public will be inspired to dig deep by the serious stories they hear as well as the entertainment on offer.

Among the highlights on offer during the first, two-and-a-half-hour stint are performances by Ellie Goulding, the Children's Choir, Rod Stewart and Jess Glynne, who performs the evening's official song, Take Me Home.

Also popping up is a Strictly special, which sees Bruce Forsyth return to the ballroom to host an edition featuring the stars of Call the Midwife – has their colleague Helen George, who is currently taking part in the dance challenge, been giving them tips?

Then, in the second half after the news, Rochelle Humes and Nick Grimshaw take over from Daly and help Wogan keep the ball rolling into the wee small hours.

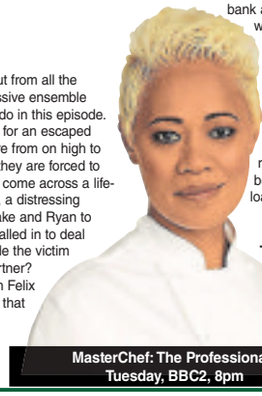
Tess Daly presents Children in Need 2015, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Shopper's Guide to Saving Money
Channel 4, 8.30pm
We work hard all week, perhaps hoping to let our hair down by indulging in some retail therapy once we clock off. With that in mind, it would be nice to think that when we do splash out, we're getting value for money. But is that the case? This new, four-part programme introduced by Dave Fishwick and Kate Quilton hopes to answer that question by investigating whether we really do get our money's worth for goods and services. They hear from big corporations and industry insiders about how much certain products cost to make before offering tips on securing the best deals for such items as jeans, airline tickets, diamonds, perfume, gas bills and even funerals. But they begin by looking at the cost of taking care of man's best friend before delving into the world of printer ink.

TUESDAY
MasterChef: The Professionals
BBC2, 8pm
New series. Six aspiring chefs compete in the cookery contest, beginning with a test of their basic skills. The first contestants must make the French dessert, a Floating Island, while the remaining three have to cook a blue steak with a green peppercorn sauce in 15 minutes. Finally, the six chefs cook their own signature dish for judges Monica Galetti, Gregg Wallace and Marcus Wareing. It is their last chance to show off their culinary talent before three of them are sent home, and three become quarter finalists.

WEDNESDAY
Cuffs
BBC1, 8pm
What makes this series stand out from all the other police dramas is its impressive ensemble cast – and they've got plenty to do in this episode. Donna and Lino are on the hunt for an escaped prisoner, but despite the pressure from on high to find him as quickly as possible, they are forced to suspend their search when they come across a life-threatening situation. Elsewhere, a distressing domestic violence case leads Jake and Ryan to come to blows, but when Jo is called in to deal with the fallout, can she persuade the victim to testify against her abusive partner? Meanwhile, Carl joins forces with Felix to look into a spate of muggings that have all targeted private school boys, and in the process gets a new insight into his reclusive boss.



MasterChef: The Professionals, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

Peep Show
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. The last series of the comedy saw Mark and Jeremy get mildly electrocuted in a field, abandoned by Dobby despite their declarations of love. The final series begins with Mark working in a bank and having a new flatmate, while Jeremy still refuses to apologise for falling in love with Dobby, at least until the time is right. However, the pair have to put their differences aside to help Super Hans maintain his newly clean and healthy lifestyle, and Jeremy's resolve is tested when he becomes in urgent need of a loan.

THURSDAY
Tom Jones & Rob Brydon: One Big Night
BBC1, 8pm
Rob Brydon hosts this spectacular night of comedy and music, which is in aid of two very good causes – it's not only raising money for Children in Need, it's also paying tribute to one of Britain's best-loved music legends, Tom Jones. As you would expect, Jones will be performing with his band, but he'll also be joined by some very special guests, including James Morrison, Laura Mvula, Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Shires and Chickenshed. And while the music was recorded live the SSE Arena, Wembley, on October 8, there will also be some pre-recorded comedy sketches, looking back at some of the key moments from Jones's long and illustrious career, including a special mini-episode of Brydon and Steve Coogan's series The Trip.

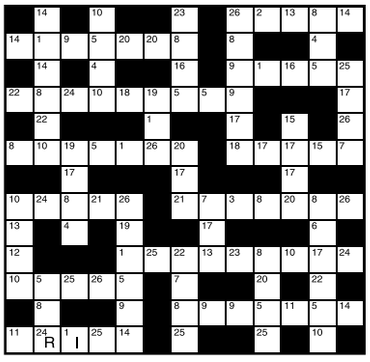
FRIDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
Spain v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the friendly match from Estadio Jose Rico Perez in Alicante, featuring two sides that qualified convincingly for Euro 2016. Reigning European champions Spain won nine and lost just one of their group matches, while Roy Hodgson's men went one better, boasting a 100 per cent record. The sides last met in a friendly in November 2011, when Frank Lampard's goal gave England a 1-0 win at Wembley. Mark Pougatch presents.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, November 5, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.350

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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3	16
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5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24 R
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	B	U	R	Q	N	Z	E	F	L	P	A	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	J	T	H	S	Y	O	I	C	M	G	K	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

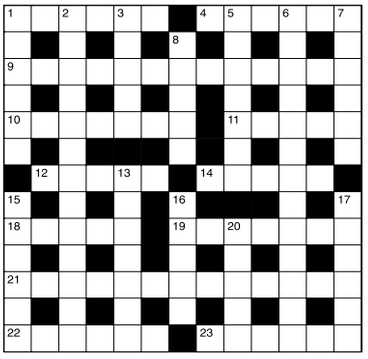
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Put a chess piece in pledge? (6)
4. 100 with tender chest (6)
9. Everything came free in vain (3,3,7)
10. No position for a moderate (7)
11. Happen to set dog on officer commanding (5)
12. Meals of wood? (5)
14. Girl gives small coin (5)
18. Strength could be used here (5)
19. Parcel I take to be a bad copy (7)
21. Seeking a popular style in some sort of way (5,1,7)
22. Have nothing to do with such rubbish (6)
23. One who intends to be more niggardly? (6)

Down

1. Positions about 50 steps this way (6)
2. Esteemed source of water came to mind (4,7,2)
3. Eat away like some active rodent (5)
5. The opposite of go in as a result? (7)
6. Not in a bad state as a reasonable proviso (4,9)
7. About to drag up notice (6)
8. Also two points in the mountains (5)
13. Back answers used by scientists (7)
15. I am to have a couple to spoil (6)
16. Go off course one foot, being under the doctor (5)
17. As waved by the prohibitionist? (6)
20. A step in adhesive production (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Iterate (6)
4. Bog (6)
9. Without delegates (13)
10. Hung down (7)
11. Expiate (5)
12. Form (5)
14. Worth (5)
18. Go in (5)
19. Labour (7)
21. Imprisonment (13)
22. Puts off (6)
23. Niche (6)

Down

1. Slices (6)
2. In brackets (13)
3. Horrify (5)
5. Daunt (7)
6. Dictatorial (13)
7. Abrupt (6)
8. Prepared (5)
13. Depict (7)
15. Following (6)
16. Guide (5)
17. Sides (6)
20. Not asleep (5)

Sudoku

	5		6			9		
9				3				6
8	4				1		3	7
	9	3		5	7		8	
								3
	7		3	8		6	4	
7	3		9				5	4
		9						1
		4	8		5		7	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	3	8	9	2	1	6	7
8	1	6	3	5	7	4	9	2
9	7	2	6	4	1	3	8	5
2	3	4	9	1	6	7	5	8
7	8	1	5	2	4	6	3	9
6	5	9	7	3	8	2	4	1
3	6	5	1	7	9	8	2	4
4	9	7	2	8	3	5	1	6
1	2	8	4	6	5	9	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Claimed; 7 Suite; 9 And; 10 Comparing; 12 Underhanded; 15 Respiration; 17 Quartered; 19 Mar; 21 Drone; 22 Medical. Down: 1 Plant; 2 Gin; 3 Peso; 4 Guarantor; 5 Stunted; 8 Upshot; 11 Inspiring; 13 Earned; 14 Require; 16 Malay; 18 Even; 20 Tin. QUICK - Across: 6 Onerous; 7 Smear; 9 Fop; 10 Sedentary; 12 Benediction; 15 Predecessor; 17 Destitute; 19 Pun; 21 Donor; 22 Deceive. Down: 1 Endow; 2 Try; 3 Sure; 4 Imitation; 5 Warrior; 8 Remiss; 11 Rendition; 13 Excite; 14 Freedom; 16 Suave; 18 Tier; 20 Sea.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who succeeded Cecil Parkinson in 1983 as Conservative party chairman?
2. What are Formentera, Ibiza, Minorca and Majorca collectively known as?
3. What cargo was H.M.S. Bounty carrying when the mutiny occurred?
4. In what year was NATO established?
5. In which village did Jesus reputedly turn water into wine?
6. In which year did Mao Tse-tung die?
7. Which Italian P.M. was kidnapped by the Red Brigade in 1978?
8. Who wrote The Life of Dr. Johnson?
9. In which country is the Jutland peninsula?
10. In which country, other than Malawi, is the kwacha a unit of currency?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 SF; 2 Watercress; 3 Polish Symphony; 4 1965; 5 Rhine; 6 Fear of men; 7 Trombone; 8 Zambezi; 9 Diana Prince; 10 1910.

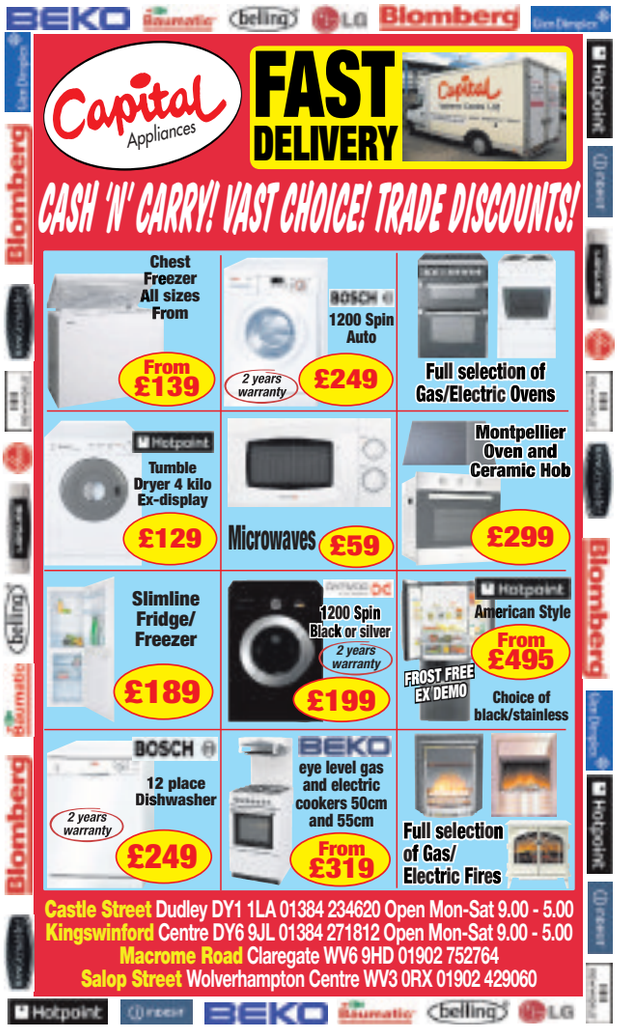
Niner: CREMATING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

478 gives something to wear,
3524 gives a second thing to wear,
93261 gives a third thing to wear.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Individual, stylish ADAM

By Bob Hickman

Vauxhall has been a long time coming to the supermini party, and it is an area in which it has missed out on of thousands of car sales. But with the very quirky ADAM it is now entering the section with relish.

The Adam is just over 12ft long, slightly longer than a MINI, and at 6ft 6in wide (if you include the mirrors) is one of the biggest in its class, slightly bigger than the Fiat 500 and the Audi A1.

Vauxhall has continued the fun with the name of the trims – they call them, Jam, Glam and Slam. Slam supposedly for a sporty ride, Jam is fashionable, and Glam is the comfortable classic for the more mature owner.

The body colours also get rather strange names in James Bond, Saturday White Fever and Buzz Light Green. In fact, the Adam is a car for all people. Over a million combinations of interior and exterior specifications make virtually no ADAM the same as another. Your bespoke vehicle starts with the order list.

Vauxhall hopes the ADAM will reach not just the committed Vauxhall but attract those not previously considering the brand.

The ADAM itself is based on a Corsa platform which has been reduced – this gives you an indication of the size of the vehicle. There is a choice of engines, with a 1.2-litre, 1.4-litre and in my particular case for this test, a delightful 1-litre 3-cylinder 998cc engine, producing 115bhp and a very commendable low CO2 emission, which puts it in to the £30 per year tax bracket.

The combined fuel figures are quoted at 57mpg and I achieved 49mpg during my week on varied road surfaces, which I thought was quite reasonable.

All the models in the range get as standard, air conditioning, remote central locking, a decent radio system, and there is also an option for a centre control screen which can display your phone, satnav and various other items.

From a driving and passenger perspective the ADAM, being in the small category, is a vehicle that has surprising qualities. It will comfortably seat four people but there will then be a luggage issue. Primarily, the ADAM is not really suitable to family life but it makes a very pleasant second vehicle.

Drawbacks I found were the three-door access to the rear was awkward. And the driver and passenger doors are huge. This translates in to requiring a large amount of space on a car park just to open the doors and allow driver and passengers to exit.

'Over a million combinations of interior and exterior specifications make virtually no ADAM the same as another. Your bespoke ADAM starts with the order list'

I really enjoyed driving the car, the engine seemed to be perfectly tuned to the size and the dynamics of the suspension, and the handling at all times was comfortable, precise and relatively comfortable.

All in all, the ADAM is a vehicle that allows you to customise to your heart's content, and when you see some of the variables in the colour schemes and add in the extras which can be incorporated on the interior, there will be some interesting ADAMS on the road.

I worry, however, in two or three year's time when you take that highly customised vehicle to the dealer, what the reaction will be.

I well remember a very vivid-coloured Peugeot 206 cabriolet I owned some years ago, and the dealer saying we will never sell it in that colour. Time will tell who is right and who is wrong.

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Prices for Brit-built Astra

Vauxhall's all-new Astra Sports Tourer will be in showrooms in March priced from £16,585 on-the-road.

The new Sports Tourer, built at Vauxhall's manufacturing plant in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, follows hot on the heels of the highly-acclaimed five-door model and is up to £1,870 less expensive than the outgoing ST with a simplified range.

The new Astra Sports Tourer range includes Design, Tech Line, SRi and Elite, with Nav versions of the SRi and Elite trims also available. Range highlights include the 1.0-litre three-cylinder Turbo Start/Stop ecoFLEX model priced from £17,285 on-the-road.

With an Easytronic five-speed automatic transmission, the same model achieves a class-leading 96g/km CO2 emissions.

The range-topping 1.6-litre (200PS) is available in SRi trim priced from £21,710 on-the-road. The diesel offering includes the 1.6-litre 'Whisper Diesel' (110PS) Start/Stop ecoFLEX model (prices start at £18,785 on-the-road) that achieves 85.6mpg and class-leading CO2 emissions of 86g/km.

All pricing, fuel economy and emission figures are provisional and subject to change.

Each trim level features a high level of standard specification.

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Buckle up for smooth ride in the new BMW3

By Matt Kimberley

You'll need your strongest magnifying glass to see the tiny nips and tucks at the front and rear, but the financially savvy will notice the improvements that have been made to the fuel economy and emissions of various models.

There's now a version that dips to 99g/km, earning free road tax – although to get it you'll need to add the £1,550 automatic gearbox. You'll have to do the maths on that one.

The front bumper is a little less sculpted than before, with a greater emphasis on horizontal lines. That's to cater for the tastes of larger markets than ours. The 3 Series is still an image-focused car, though, proudly displaying the correct badge for business types and feeling very much the part on the inside, too.

You could argue that when it comes to premium cars, the domination of the three-box saloon is not as strong as it once was, but there's still a strong following for what has been a hugely popular and influential model in Britain. If you've got a new 3 Series, you're doing alright.

There's a big boot behind the three rear seats, with recessed bins at the sides and a large aperture that lets you nonchalantly slot larger cases straight in. In the front there are useful door bins, and while you won't fit much into the glovebox, the cabin is very spacious for passengers.

Legroom in the back is ample, and more accommodating than it looks because the 3 Series has longer rear seat squabs than many non-premium cars that use shorter squabs to increase the appearance of space.

Leather-covered surfaces are potentially vulnerable to the rigours of family life, but that's pretty much a given in this part of the market.

The 320d is likely to be the biggest seller. The efficiency numbers are impressive and that optional eight-speed automatic gearbox is superb, despite the hefty price tag. The test car only had around 500 miles on it so the engine was almost certainly still at its tightest, but it's fair to say that it felt nowhere near as brisk as its on-paper 188bhp and 295lb/ft suggest.

What you do get is super-stable handling and oodles of grip on the larger wheels of M Sport versions, and well-controlled floatiness on the Efficient Dynamics (ED Plus) model and its tiny-looking but efficiency-boosting 16-inch alloys. Avoid the inconsistent Servotronic steering, though, which completely ruins the standard set-up's linearity and directness.

There's good visibility in all directions, which is handy because you don't sit too high. Using the iDrive is a joy these days, and if you upgrade the standard BMW Business navigation to the Professional grade you're rewarded with a wider, sharper screen with more functionality.

It's not a cheap step up, though. My pick of the options is the superb head-up display. Again, it's pricey, but once you've had it you'll wonder how you ever managed without.

With options the 320D xDrive I drove totalled £46,000. That's a terrifying, absurd figure you should run away from. A standard but very well equipped 335d, with all its lovely torque, is less than £41,000.

Many of BMW's options are simply replacing existing systems with better versions rather than adding crucial new tech, so stick as close to standard spec as you can. In Sport trim and with the automatic added, the 320d is arguably cheaper to own than rivals from Mercedes, Audi and Jaguar.

This is a car with a long-standing trail of success in this country, but its days as the default upgrade from a Mondeo or Passat have been ended by the splurge of crossovers and compact SUVs, most of which are waving the 'premium' flag as hard as they can. The BMW might be becoming the understated choice, but it still drives and handles better than any of its high-riding rivals.

This car summed up in a single word: Classic

If this car was a: kitchen table it would be from the mainstay range at an oak furniture shop. It's robust, looks smart and feels solid, carrying with it a style that will never go out of fashion.

TESTED

BMW 320d, from £29,785

Engine: 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol producing 188bhp and 295lb/ft
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 146mph, 0-62mph in 7.3 seconds
Economy: 67.3mpg combined
Emissions: 111g/km of CO2

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RENAULT CLIO 2003, 47k miles, mettallic silver,10 month mot,electric windows, Air con,Taxed, one owner. £1,700 ono 07896 346626

TOYOTA AYGO 1000CC Grey, 2 keepers, 56 plate, 70k, £20 road tax, ideal 1st car. £2,450 ono. 07760 887220.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 2013, 1.4, automatic, 3,000 miles, metallic silver, silver, EW, AC. £6,950. Please call 01902 895145.

VW GOLF 1.6 FSi, 2006, black, full MoT, 58,000 miles, genuine reason for sale, £3,250. 07956 508555.

cars under £1500

CITROEN C4 1.6 VTR Coupe, 2006, 9 months MoT, 89k miles, 4 brand new tyres, silver, good condition, £900 o.n.o. 07944 656560.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 2002, 60,000 miles, blue, new battery, MoT Aug 2016, fsh, 5 door, excellent condition. £795 ono. 07434 144144.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO, 51 Reg., long MoT, very good condition, £500 o.n.o. 07759 737894.

FORD FIESTA 1.2, low mileage, 57,000, 12 months MoT, good runner, £500. 07507 211472.

FORD FIESTA FUN, 2001, petrol, 1299cc, 81,000 miles, full MoT, £300 ono.
07432 403911 or 01902 833126.

FORD FIESTA V reg., Zetec, 3-dr, petrol, silver, MoT September 2016, reasonable condition. £450. 01902 744291.

FORD KA 1.3 2005, 31,000 miles, blue, two owners. 6 months MoT. FSH. £950. 07443 567011.

FORD KA, 2003, 34,000 miles, 1.3 Petrol, blue, MoT, CD. Great for first car. Excellent condition for age. £995. o.n.o. 01785 712747.

GALAXY GHIA DIESEL AUTO

Blue, 2004

£1,495.

Also

MONDEO GHIA X

Diesel, silver, 2006, manual.

£1,175

Both excellent.

Illness forces sale.

Must sell.

07973 823945.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE, 51 reg, 8 months MoT, fsh, good looking motor. £1,000 no offers.
01902 785453 (W'hampton).

MAZDA 323 IMOLA, 1997, 98,000 miles, silver, e/w, air bags, e/m, sunroof, air con, 5 months MoT, s/h. £395 ono. 07827 873439.

MERCEDES CLK 200 S reg, 1998, MoT March 16, AMG wheels, SH, Haynes manual, good condition. £375 ono. 07933 701245.

NISSAN ALMERA silver, 53 plate, full MoT, 79,000 miles, £500.
07904 349778

PEUGEOT 206 estate, 1.4 SW, 02 reg, 11 months MoT, clean car, needs slight attention, £400 ono. 07752 698204.

PEUGEOT 206CC 03 reg, MoT till March 2016, silver, 83,000 miles, good condition. £600 ono. 07543 905312 or 07401 876512.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, 52 reg, 6 months MoT, £450 ono.
01902 750388.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 2004,
Metallic Blue Three door. Black. Wrapped roof. Speaker system,. MoT May 16. Good First car.
£700 ono.
07944 182556.

ROVER MG 1.8 ZS +, saloon, blue, low miles, 12 months MoT, rust free example, £950, May part ex.
01902 530123 or 07747 740971.

SKODA FABIA 1.4, silver, 5dr, MoT Feb 2016, good runner, good condition, £550 ono.
07411 733865.

VAUXHALL AGILA 1.21, 2002, MoT till July 2016, good running order, £400 ono. 07967 040324.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 1997, 12 months MoT, bargain £425 ono.
07799 292493.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2005, 5 door, black, full MoT, £1,295 ono. Telephone 01902 829438.

VAUXHALL CORSA EXPRESSION 998cc, 3 door, 56 reg, blue, only 57k, s/h, MoT, stunning condition, only £1,495. 07984 141652.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 16v, 3-dr, metallic blue, 84,000 miles, full MoT, any inspection, excellent condition, £895 ono. 07543 919296.

classic cars

MG GT 1978 Fire to Interior. Body Sound. Good engine. Bargain £800. 01902 630726.

MG MIDGET 1500
long MoT, full history, low miles, De-bumpered, 1979, just resprayed yellow, 2 seater soft top.
£2,000 no offers.
01384 74272.

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mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JEAN ELISABETH ROOKER
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of De Novo 35 School Lane Hagley Stourbridge DY9 9LD, who died on 28/08/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/01/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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T455748

10 Personals

personal

DIVORCED WEALTY GENT
Wants to spoil a lady aged 45-55, hoping for a long term relationship.
Box Number P20112 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE MAN 52
Attractive, slim, caring, GSOH, solvent, car owner, WLTM lady 40 to 58 for evenings/days out and friendship.
Don't be shy, please reply and claim a free hug.
Box Number P20114 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

SINCERE LOVING HONEST
Easy going male, 60's, would like to meet female similar for friendship or relationship.
Box Number P20109 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ROYAL NAVAL Association held a flag day on Saturday, October 17, raising £656.67. Expenses Nil. We thank the people of Stourbridge for their generosity.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

Or **Text...** **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box 410127**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513**

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks geniune and caring guy. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4345 Box No: 419829**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401**

MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

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GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

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ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469**

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SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks large cuddly lady 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906088**

TOM, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimmish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

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GENUINE caring male, seeks similar female for friendship or possibly more. Aged between 25-39. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4916049**

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MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4906088**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

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MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

Men seeking men

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TALL male 57, seeks older male 60 to 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

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BI male would like to meet same, 60 to 80 years. Must be able to accommodate for fun weekends. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

BI curious guy 36, looking for gay or bi male age 58 - 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4930039**

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ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4483526**

Friends

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

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First win still eludes chess club

THE Birmingham Division 3 team travelled to Sutton Coldfield, looking for their first win of the season.

The match seemed to be well balanced for about an hour or so, then the two reserves Sam Bradley and Colin Woodall began to establish an advantage. The other positions looked at least equal for Stourbridge.

The momentum then started to swing in the other direction.

Dave Scriven agreed a draw while John Foxall went wrong in a good position, lost his advantage and also accepted a draw.

Bradley then completed a nice win, shortly afterwards so did Colin and SCC were 3-1 up. Unfortunately, Stourbridge were unable to hold the remaining two boards and both games were lost.

The final result was 3-3, at last a point in this division.

The only other match this week was the third team hosting a strong Birmingham University team in Birmingham Division 4.

Stourbridge came out of the openings well on all boards but then started to go wrong.

Board four blundered a rook and quickly lost. This was followed by a loss on board two.

On board oneTony Shaw missed a winning combination and also lost.

Then on board six junior Dan Arkell managed to force a stalemate from a lost position. This was an excellent result for Arkell but team captain Steve Alcock was unable to stop the rot and also lost.

This left Sam Bradley fighting for a win. Initially he had four pawns for two pieces.

Eventually his opponent gave back the material but was still unable to stop the remaining pawns advancing and lost on time.

So another lost match, however, Stourbridge have played most of the top teams in this division and are still capable of beating the remaining teams so still have some chance of retaining a place in Division 4.

Nine-goal thriller is full of drama for Sports

Dudley Sports 5 Bromyard 4

A remarkable West Midlands Premier game at Dudley Sports yielded a match filled with drama with nine goals, two penalties and a sending-off.

Sports took the lead on five minutes when Shepherd Machingauta raced clear to get the ball into the net and put his side on the scoreboard.

With less than half an hour of the game gone the score was upped to 2-0.

Bromyard's Martin Newman was sent off after handling on the line and although Stuart Hillman's penalty was saved by the visiting goalkeeper, Aaron Gordon followed up and put the ball away to boost the score.

Not to be outdone 10-man Bromyard got themselves back into the game minutes later. The resurge came through Dan Polon heading home from a corner.

With the bit between their teeth Bromyard grabbed two goals in the space of four minutes, through Martin Dobson and Dan Scheppel, to put the visitors ahead.

Sports showed real grit and drew level on 48 minutes as Machingauta headed home a Hillman cross.

Bromyard made it 4-3 on the hour when Josh Wetherby scored from the spot.

Yet again Sports came back this time it was captain Tom Watkins who scored from the edge of the box.

Fittingly, the game was settled by a superb goal.

This time it was Hillman who sent in a crashing volley from 25 yards.

Wolves were like a well-oiled machine

Blues 0 Wolves 2

CHOOSING next week's lottery numbers will be easier to predict than this Wolves team.

Defeat after defeat after defeat, followed by an almost faultless away performance at St Andrew's, perfectly executed by a disciplined, organised and resolute side that knew exactly what its game plan was, and stuck to it.

Wolves won comfortably. Against a team they started the day nine points behind. So who saw that coming?

Kenny Jackett might have done, and he cannot be praised enough for masterminding what was an important victory, both in terms of supporter morale, and the bigger picture of the play-offs.

In reducing the gap to sixth-placed Blues to six points, it keeps their heads above water in the play-off race.

It also eases the pressure on Jackett, who knows that a season of drifting aimlessly along in mid-table obscurity with no hope of a push at the top six would probably cost him his job.

Surprise

But aside from a well-planned and well-delivered strategy, there was more behind this surprise victory.

Wolves have now won five Championship games this season, three of them since Steve Morgan's bombshell departure in late September.

And while any upturn or downturn in form cannot be attributed to the club being put up for a sale, a sudden change in transfer policy certainly can.

Morgan long campaigned for the virtues of youth in the Wolves squad, bankrolling the new training academy, and it is believed the policy to flood the first team with 'young and hungry' talent came directly from the top.

It is a policy Jackett has happily (in the public domain at least) worked within, largely untroubled.

But Wolves have gone to extreme lengths to continue that policy of late, shearing the squad of any players aged 30 or over, and of course controversially selling Richard Stearman for just £2m.

Tivs pull back to even up the score

Garfield Robinson jinks past a Tividale defender during the derby match

Tividale 1 Chasetown 1

A topsy-turvy game saw Chasetown extend their unbeaten run to four matches thanks mainly to goalkeeper John Bateman.

Chasetown started brightly and had the lion's share of the possession, keeping Evo-Stik Division One South bottom club Tividale firmly camped inside their own half.

Despite the territorial advantage, Thomas Turner in the Tividale goal was relatively untroubled with direct shots at goal, with James Dance firing wide, Stan Mugisha driving over the bar and a Rhys Thompson free-kick right on the edge of the box striking the defensive wall.

It was still no surprise though when Chasetown took the lead.

A corner was headed back into the danger area by Joe Halsall and a slight obstruction by his own defender caused Turner to spill a regulation catch straight to the feet of Ryan Winter.

Winter took a couple of touches to make the chance easier but comfortably netted his fifth goal of the season. The lead was short-lived as Chris Rabone was sent tumbling in the penalty area and Chris Sterling confidently converted the spot-kick.

Town lose grip on the game in second half

Pegasus Jrs 5 Tipton Town 2

TIPTON Town's first ever visit to the splendid Pegasus ground in Old School Lane, Hereford culminated in a convincing defeat following an insipid second-half performance from the visitors.

Tipton had battled well in the first period of the match to turn it around so it was all square at 1-1 in the West Midlands Premier clash.

Sean Pearson put Pegasus ahead on 12 minutes but the Black Country club equalised through a splendid Ravi Sangha strike just six minutes later which meant the game was on and it could be a case of who blinks first.

Honours remained pretty even for the remainder of the half but no one could see what is coming when the visitors' performance was, unaccountably, to dip sadly in the second period, allowing the home club and their leading scorer Pearson to run riot and take their opponents out of the running.

Tipton's second-half showing lacked a great deal of the energy they had displayed in the first period and which had kept them in the game.

However, several of the Town defenders were being too easily brushed aside.

Pearson ended up with four goals for Pegasus, Cory Hyde scoring the other as the visitors' Matt Weyman provided a little second-half consolation by netting.

Manager Paul Totney will be looking for a huge improvement this week when local rivals Wolverhampton Casuals will be visiting Tipton Sports Academy.

Rangers are taken down by Sporting

Wolves Sporting 6
Smethwick Rangers 3

WOLVES Sporting moved back up to sixth place in the West Midlands Premier with a superb win against form side Smethwick Rangers.

The visitors had been unbeaten in six but were three down in rapid time thanks to goals from Daniel Westwood, Kyle Delaney and Nathan Cain.

Wolves also hit a post and Jon Letford missed a good headed chance from six yards.

Smethwick hit back to cut the arrears to 3-2, but in the second half another fast start by the home team saw Chris Brown net twice either side of Letford bagging his second.

A late goal for Rangers took no gloss off the result for Sporting, who have netted 38 goals in their last 10 games.

Albion need to 'go back to the basics'

CHRIS BRUNT wants Albion to go back to basics at home in order to stop conceding so many goals.

The Baggies have picked up just four points from six games at The Hawthorns this season.

Tony Pulis' side have been defensively sound away from home but at home they've lost three games 3-2.

"We pride ourselves on not conceding goals and at home this season it's been difficult for us," said Brunt. "We've only won here once and we've conceded three goals on a few occasions so that's obviously something we have to address as a team. I'm sure we'll look at it this week."

"I think maybe it's about time we went back to basics at home and made sure we were difficult to beat," said Brunt.

Final whistle

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Sport

Glassboys edge into next round
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Tivs in fightback to share the spoils
Page 39

Champion Tai coming to meet fans

DOUBLE world champion Tai Woffinden will be in Wolverhampton to meet fans for one night only later this month.

The Scunthorpe-born Wolves asset is currently in Perth, where he spent his childhood, but is making a whistle-stop return to Europe.

He will attend the FIM gala awards dinner on November 22 where he will be officially recognised as the sport's top rider in the last three seasons – and will also appear at the Cleveland Arms in Wolverhampton on November 26 to meet his public.

He will be joined by Sky Sports duo Kelvin Tatum and Nigel Pearson for what promises to be an emotional evening.

Said Woffinden: "I'm just trying to take everything in with what's happened and winning the title for a second time, it still doesn't seem quite real.

"I'm enjoying my time here in Perth catching up with everyone, it's nice and I'm trying to relax and take stock of everything.

"I'm honoured to be heading back to Europe, firstly for the FIM gala dinner which is a very special and prestigious occasion and both Faye and I are looking forward to that.

"I'm also keeping a promise I made in February by going back to the Cleveland Arms; Will and the team always make me feel really welcome there and I'm looking forward to the night.

"I look forward to catching up with my British fans again after an amazing year."

Tickets for the Cleveland Arms evening, priced £10, are expected to sell fast and are now available to order from sportstalkevents.co.uk booking office or by calling the venue 01902 451021.

Pulis charged by FA over incident involving referee

THE FA have charged Albion boss Tony Pulis with improper conduct for an altercation with referee Anthony Taylor after Saturday's defeat to Leicester.

Pulis is alleged to have used unsuitable 'language and/or behaviour' in the tunnel after the full time whistle at The Hawthorns. He had until 6pm Thursday to respond.

Taylor turned down three Albion penalty shouts during the match, and afterwards Pulis admitted he had confronted the referee about it.

"I've had a little bit of a go in the tunnel with him," he said. "I apologised for doing that." Taylor infuriated Albion fans by ignoring three separate penalty appeals.

In the first half, Leonardo Ulloa tugged Jonny Evans back at a corner and Robert Huth wrestled Gareth McAuley to the floor.

Then after half-time, Huth clattered into Darren Fletcher. Albion's manager took issue with the incidents involving Evans and Fletcher and the Welshman said he was going to contact referees' chief Mike Riley about the game.

Wrens Nest enjoy a high five for the win

Wrens Nest 5 FC Stafford 3

Football

FC Stafford's absences and injuries proved too much as they went down at Wrens Nest following a poor second-half performance.

With Jon Warburton facing a further three months out and Alex Barnfather missing for the next month through injury, Stafford welcomed back Thomas Duffy and Andy Willacy to the starting line-up.

Stafford started this West Midlands Division One game well, pressing Wrens into their own 18-yard box.

The visitors managed to create opportunities but Ben Smith and Duffy were unable convert.

Wrens were always going to be a threat and underlined that when Chris Rhodes headed home their first attempt of the half from a wide free-kick. Shortly after they doubled the lead, scoring after Stafford failed to clear a corner.

That left keeper Steve McCabe having conceded two goals without touching the ball in play.

Stafford remained positive and kept moving the ball, looking for openings. Duffy was unfortunate not to score his tenth of the season as his effort beat the keeper but was hacked off the line.

But Duffy did have an important impact as his free-kick was met by captain Dave Wilcock who powered his header into the net.

And on 44 minutes Smith grabbed the equalised. Good work from Duffy saw him round the keeper and set up Smith for a tap-in.

Wrens then hammered their way back in front from a goalmouth scramble. Duffy won a free-kick and brushed himself off to bring Stafford level again.

But on 81 minutes came heartbreak for Stafford and joy for the Nest as a deflected corner was stabbed into his own net by Sam Waterfall. Stafford pressed and the home team netted a fifth.

GLASSBOYS IN NEXT ROUND

Halesowen 1 Stourbridge 2

STOURBRIDGE manager Gary Hackett felt his team just about deserved to edge the FA Trophy game in a tight contest ahead of a big week for his club.

The opening stages of the derby were understandably nervy but the game came to life after 22 minutes when Stourbridge's Chris Lait crossed for Matt Dodd whose header hit the bar.

The teams went into the changing rooms level at half-time after the sides scored a goal a piece in a six-minute spell.

Stourbridge led when influential former Yeltz midfielder Tom Tonks played a neat interchange with Dodd before picking out the unmarked Stuart Pierpoint.

With a shot at goal he smashed a brilliant 28th-minute finish into the top corner from 15 yards.

But the lead proved short-lived as Halesowen equalised after 34 minutes when Reece Hales played a neat dummy, allowing Keyon Reffell to advance with pace and hit a low cross for Aaron Daniels to turn home with perfect timing.

Attrition

The second half soon developed into a battle of attrition as each side strived to gain control of the match with a 73rd-minute penalty appeal from Halesowen's Reffell being turned down by the officials.

The Glassboys struck their 79th-minute winner when Karl Hawley glanced home a close-range header off the underside of the crossbar after Justin Richards whipped across a free-kick from the left.

Reffell missed a late opportunity to level for the Yeltz when he sliced wide from 10 yards.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Connolly (Rosser 86), Griffiths (Cooper 82), Westwood (Gueyes 80), Morrison, Lewis, Charlton, Bragoli (c), Reffell, Daniels. **Subs not used:** Sargeant (GK).

Stourbridge: Solly; Green, Scarr, Tonks, Smikle, Pierpoint (c), Dodd,

Broadhurst, Hawley, Richards (Knight 90), Lait. **Subs not used:** Canavan, Wright, Penny, Price (GK).

Garde sees scale of task at Villa

Villa's Jordan Ayew takes on Tottenham's Danny Rose and Eric Dier

Spurs 3 Villa 1

NEW boss Remi Garde watched from the White Hart Lane stands as Villa succumbed to their old failings last night.

The claret and blues went down 3-1 as defensive frailties handed Spurs the three points.

A late Villa rally was snuffed out by Harry Kane in added time but Garde will have been left in little doubt as to the magnitude of his task if he is to keep Villa in the Premier League.

A mistake by defender Ciaran Clark – recalled to the Villa starting XI after captain Micah Richards was subjected to a late one-match ban after his tunnel bust up with Swansea's Federico Fernandez – handed Moussa Dembele the fitst goal after just two minutes and Villa were chasing the game from then on.

The second goal also saw Villa's defence stand off as Dele Alli fired in Spurs' second just before the break.

And after substitute Jordan Ayew provided a second-half lifeline, Villa's defence was again wide open to allow Kane to seal the win as the away side went in search of a late equaliser.

Caretaker manager Kevin McDonald bemoaned his side's performance, saying: "We actually came with a game plan and that went out of the window after two minutes.

"We frustrated them."

Steelers are looking for new recruits

SANDWELL STEELERS women's American football team are planning a pre-Christmas recruitment drive.

The Steelers are beginning their preparations for their second season of action and the upcoming Sapphire Series that kicks off in February.

The club's men's side enjoyed a hugely successful campaign this year as they gained promotion with a perfect record of 13 wins from 13 games and now the ladies are looking to swell their playing ranks.

The games are five-a-side full contact clashes on a reduced-size playing area and the Steelers team is open to women from the age of 17.

Samantha Wilson, general manager of the women's team, said: "The Sandwell Steelers women's american football club was started in 2013 following the success of our senior and youth teams.

"We encourage girls of all shapes and sizes to come and try out a new sport and while it's not for everyone, nearly all of the girls that have come to try it out have stayed and developed so much in the sport.

"At the moment we are concentrating on five verses five full contact games, until we have a few more girls to then start moving into 11 verses 11 contact football.

"We are recruiting all the time, and are constantly fundraising for more equipment for our team."

The team's training sessions take place every Sunday from 1-3pm at Tipton Sports Academy.

Anyone interested in joining The Steelers should contact Samantha Wilson on 07445 226485 or go to facebook.com/sandwellswafc

The men's side will be celebrating their promotion-winning campaign with an awards night on November 20.

Gordon is the new owner of Harriers

FOOTBALL agent Colin Gordon has taken over ownership of Kidderminster Harriers – saying his main aim is survival.

In the club's first major change at the top since the Millenium, it was also revealed chairman Rod Brown will continue to head up the board of directors.

The club's previous three largest shareholders – Neil Savery, Jane Murrant and Barry Norgrove – all agreed to hand over their shares to Gordon for a nominal amount.

The aim for Gordon, who has been working as Harriers' football development director and played for the club, is

★★★

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